SINKING JAPAN 3 地殻変動

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日本沈没

小松左京 原作

SPコミックス

Japan sinks

Japan sinks 3 SINKING JAPAN

Saito
Productions

Original story by
Sakyo Komatsu

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Japan sinks

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Chapter 7:The day of destruction.

Original story: Sakyo Komatsu

Production: Saito Productions

Supervision: Takao Saito

Adaptation: K. Motomizu

Composition: Fumiyasu Ishikawa
Saburo Takemoto
Mikijiro Kora

Art: Fumiyasu Ishikawa
Saburo Takemoto
Mikijiro Kora
Risuke Chiba
Toshi Murakami
Jun Yuuki
Takashi Ito
Hiroshi Nishikawa
Masaru Sugai
Satoo Ozuka
Kiyoshi Aizawa
Masataka Matsumoto
Sumio Tsuchiya
Tsuyoshi Yaoi

Takao Saito

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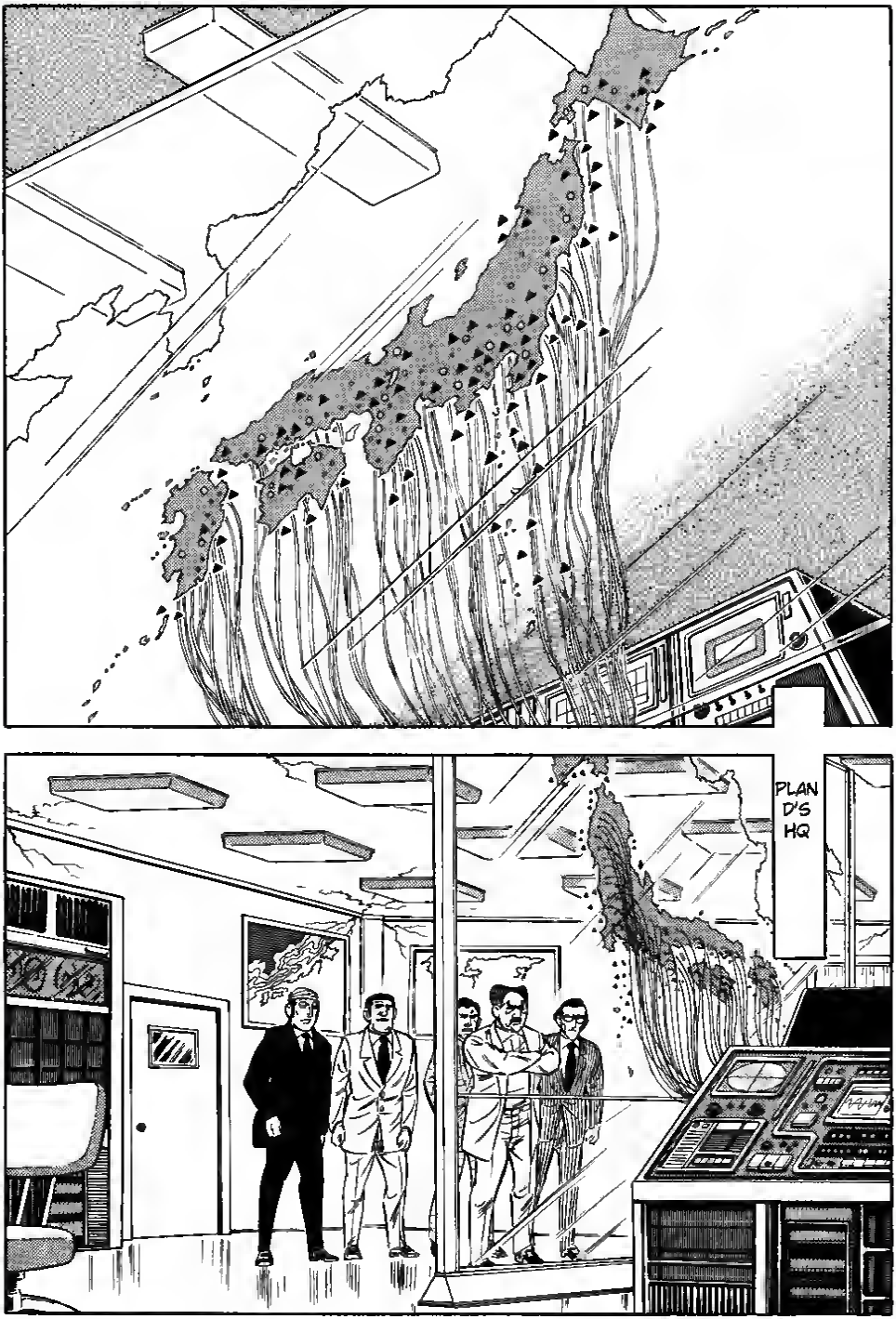
Chapter 7: The day of destruction



...THE NEGATIVE GRAVITY ANOMALY IN THE JAPAN TRENCH, FROM THE SANRIKU COAST TO KUJUKURI, IS MOVING TO THE EAST AT AN ALARMING SPEED...
...IT'S DEEPLY UN-SETTLING.
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THE GRAVITY VARIATION, PROFESSOR TADORO...?
THE NEGATIVE ANOMALY IN THE SEA OFF EASTERN JAPAN IS BUILDING UP VERY QUICKLY... THE BOTTOM OF THE JAPAN TRENCH, IN ITS EASTERN SECTOR, IS ALREADY 200-300 M DEEPER...
...AND THAT SEEMS TO BE WHAT'S SETTING THE IZU AND OGASAWARA GROUPS ON FIRE.
EAST OF THE FUJI VOLCANIC BELT, ON THE CONTRARY, IT'S MOVING TO THE WEST...
...WHICH WILL SOON BE ORBITING OVER JAPAN AT DIFFERENT ANGLES...
AMERICA HAS ALREADY LAUNCHED THREE GEODETIC SATELLITES...
...OTHER COUNTRIES ARE CARRYING OUT LARGE-SCALE INVESTIGATIONS THAT MAY GIVE THEM AN EDGE ON US.
AND AS WE TALK...
UH?!
...I WISH WE COULD HAVE A COUPLE OF THOSE FOR OUR RESEARCH...!
...ARTIFICIAL SATEL-LITES...?

ドドド

HEEEELP!
GHAAHHH!
WAHHH!
DON'T PUSH! DON'T PUSH!
AURGHHH!
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GHAAAHH!
NOOOO!
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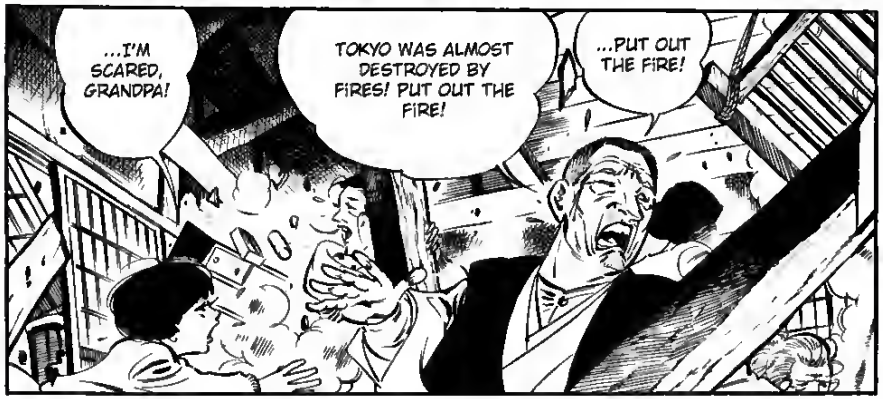
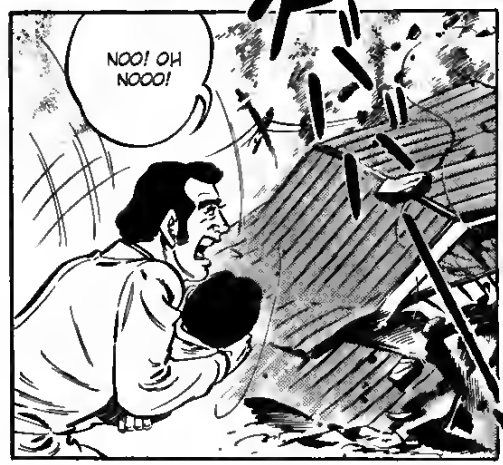
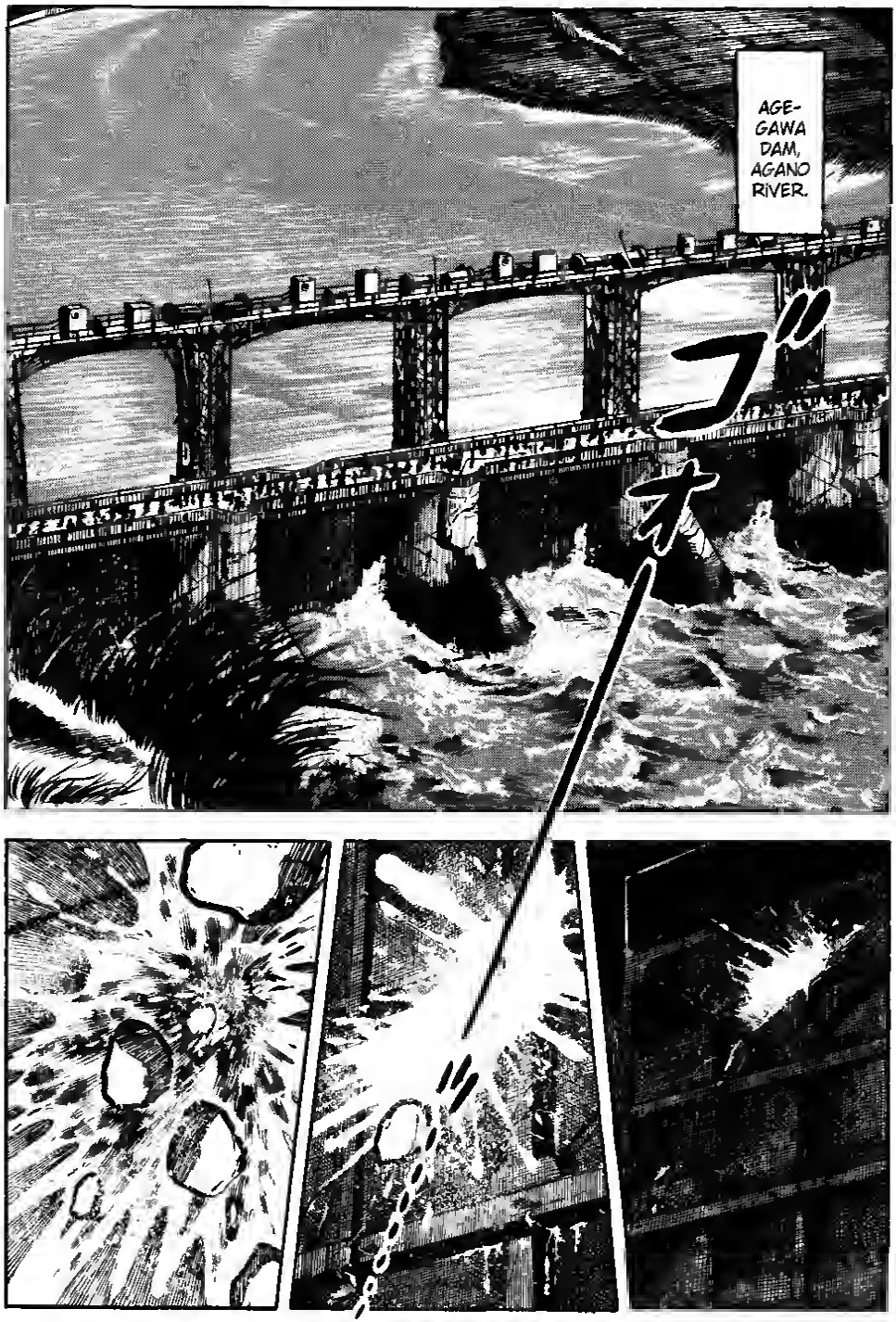
...OUR HOUSE...! I SAVED EVERY PENNY TO BUILD IT!
WE'RE CURSED! ...CURSED!


...I'M SCARED, GRANDPA!
TOKYO WAS ALMOST DESTROYED BY FIRES! PUT OUT THE FIRE!
...PUT OUT THE FIRE!

HURRY UP, DEAR!


NOO! OH NOOO!


AGE-
GAWA
DAM,
AGANO
RIVER.
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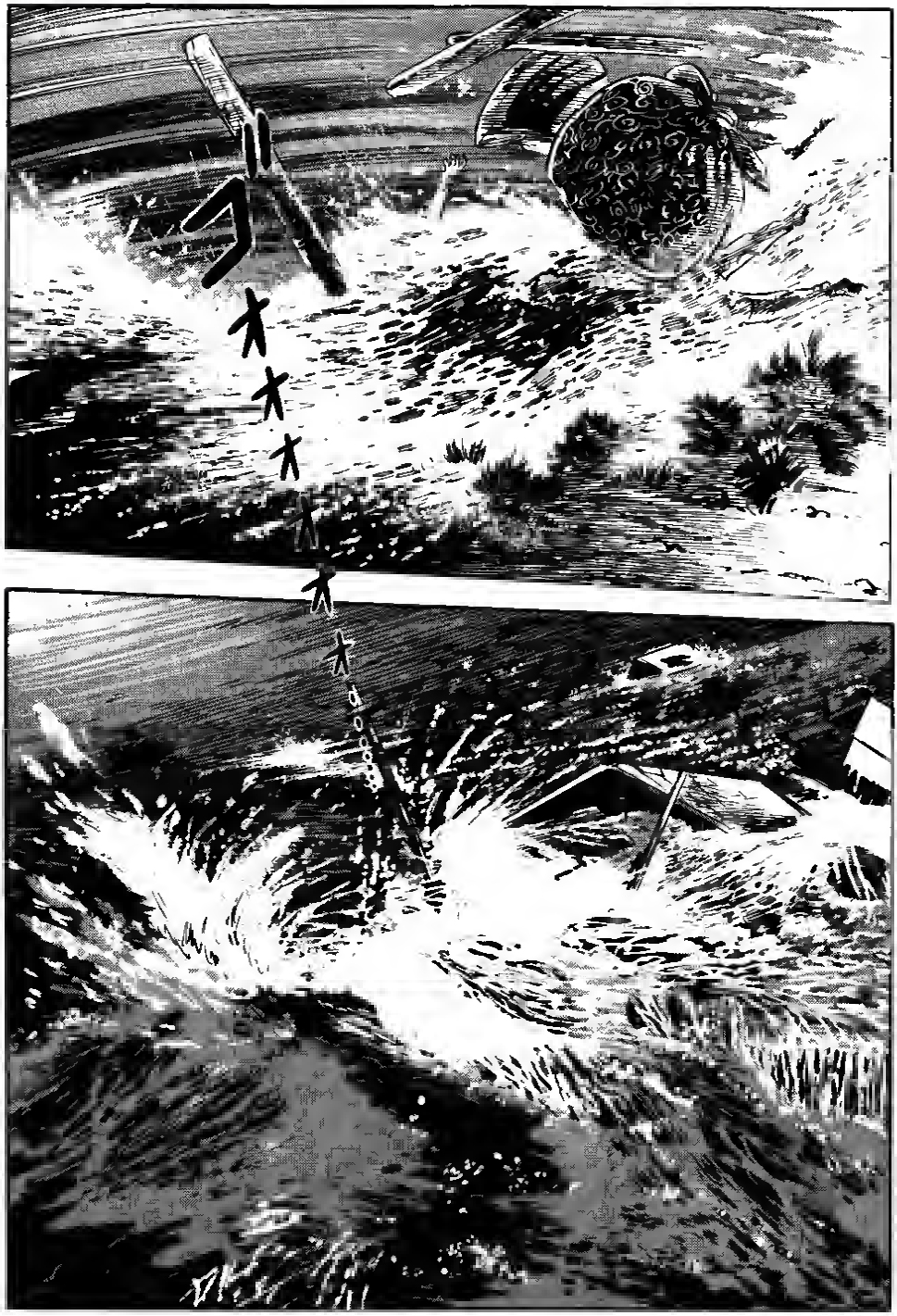
オオオー!!
WAHHHHH!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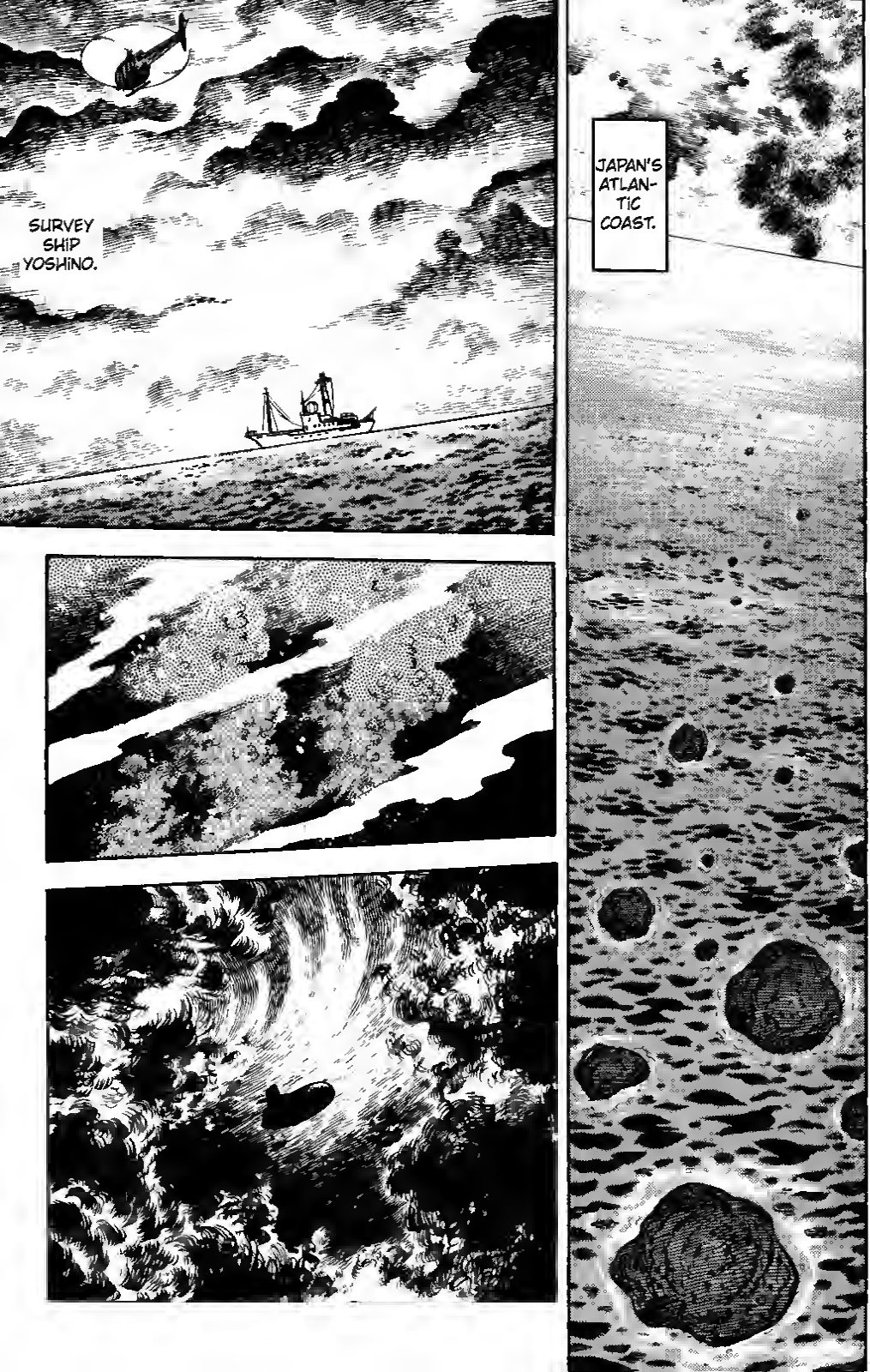
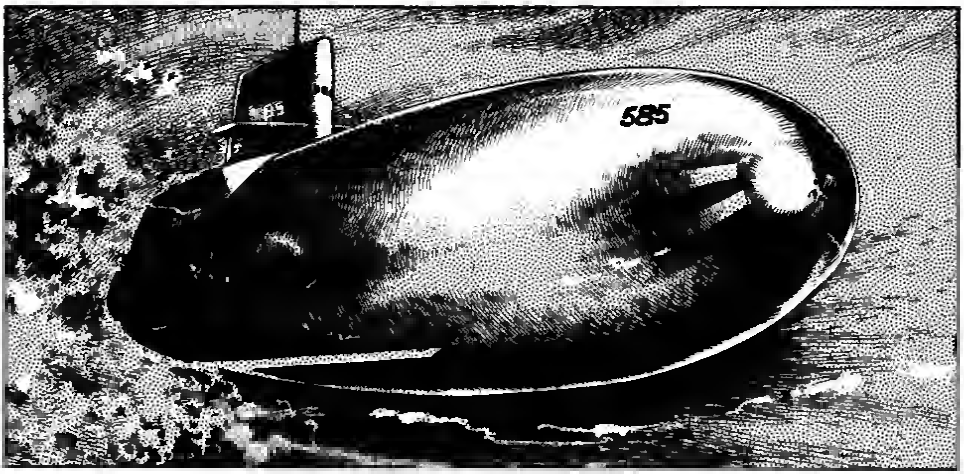
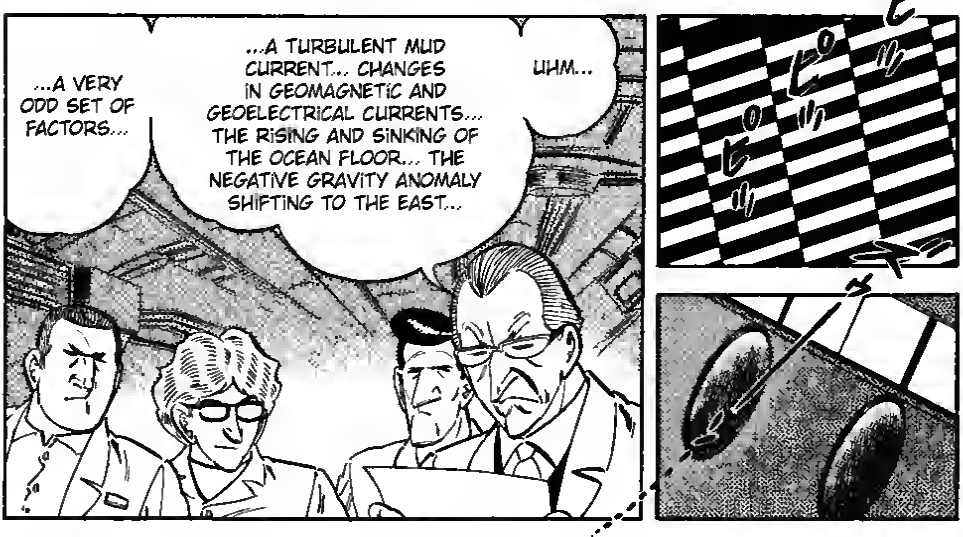

SURVEY SHIP YOSHINO.
JAPAN'S ATLANTIC COAST.




...A VERY ODD SET OF FACTORS...
...A TURBULENT MUD CURRENT... CHANGES IN GEOMAGNETIC AND GEOELECTRICAL CURRENTS... THE RISING AND SINKING OF THE OCEAN FLOOR... THE NEGATIVE GRAVITY ANOMALY SHIFTING TO THE EAST...
UHM...
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THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE CAUSE OF THE LARGE-SCALE EARTHQUAKES WHICH ARE PLAGUING JAPAN MUST BE SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE...
...WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS?
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT A VIOLENT CHANGE IS TAKING PLACE IN THE PATTERN OF MANTLE CONVECTION BELOW THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO BUT...
A NEW... LARGER... CRUSTAL MOVEMENT, MAYBE...? AND WHAT WOULD BE ITS EFFECT ON THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO?
THE RECENT STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT OF JAPAN ARE BAFFLING...
...THERE'S HAS TO BE MORE TO IT...
IT'S NOT JUST THAT...
YES...
...DOCTOR FLEMING?
...IT SHOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE FIND OUT WHAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD TRIGGER... RIGHT?
SINCE WE'VE DISCOVERED ALL KINDS OF CHANGES IN GRAVITY DISTRIBUTION ALL AROUND THE GLOBE IN THE PAST...
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO SUSPEND YOUR INVESTI-GATION ...
DOCTOR FLEMING!
...IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

OKAY, CAPTAIN MCLEAN.
...AND I WANT TO LEAVE THIS AREA BEFORE CAUSING A DIPLOMATIC ACCIDENT.
...IT WOULD SEEM THE JAPANESE ARE NOW AWARE OF OUR PRESENCE.
A SEA QUAKE!
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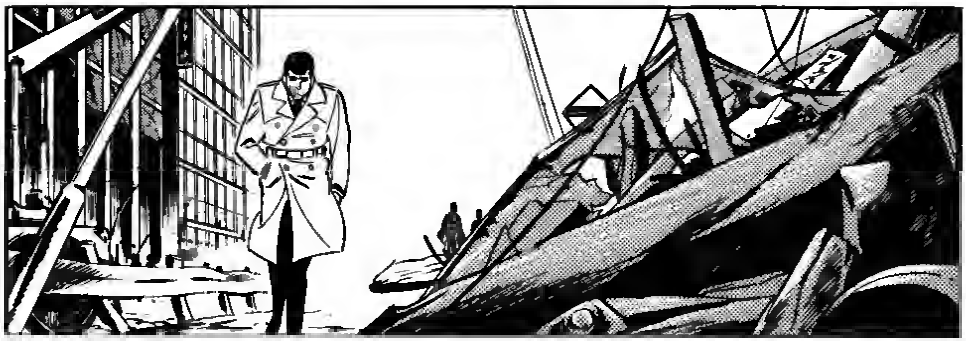
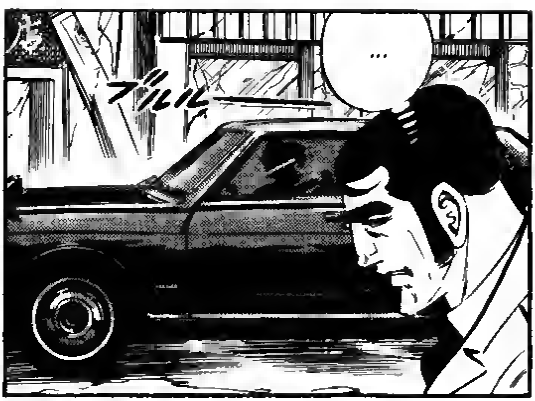
...OUR SUB CAN WITHSTAND MUCH STRONGER SHOCKS THAN THIS!
DON'T WORRY...

TO-
KYO



AH! STOP,
QUICK!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...

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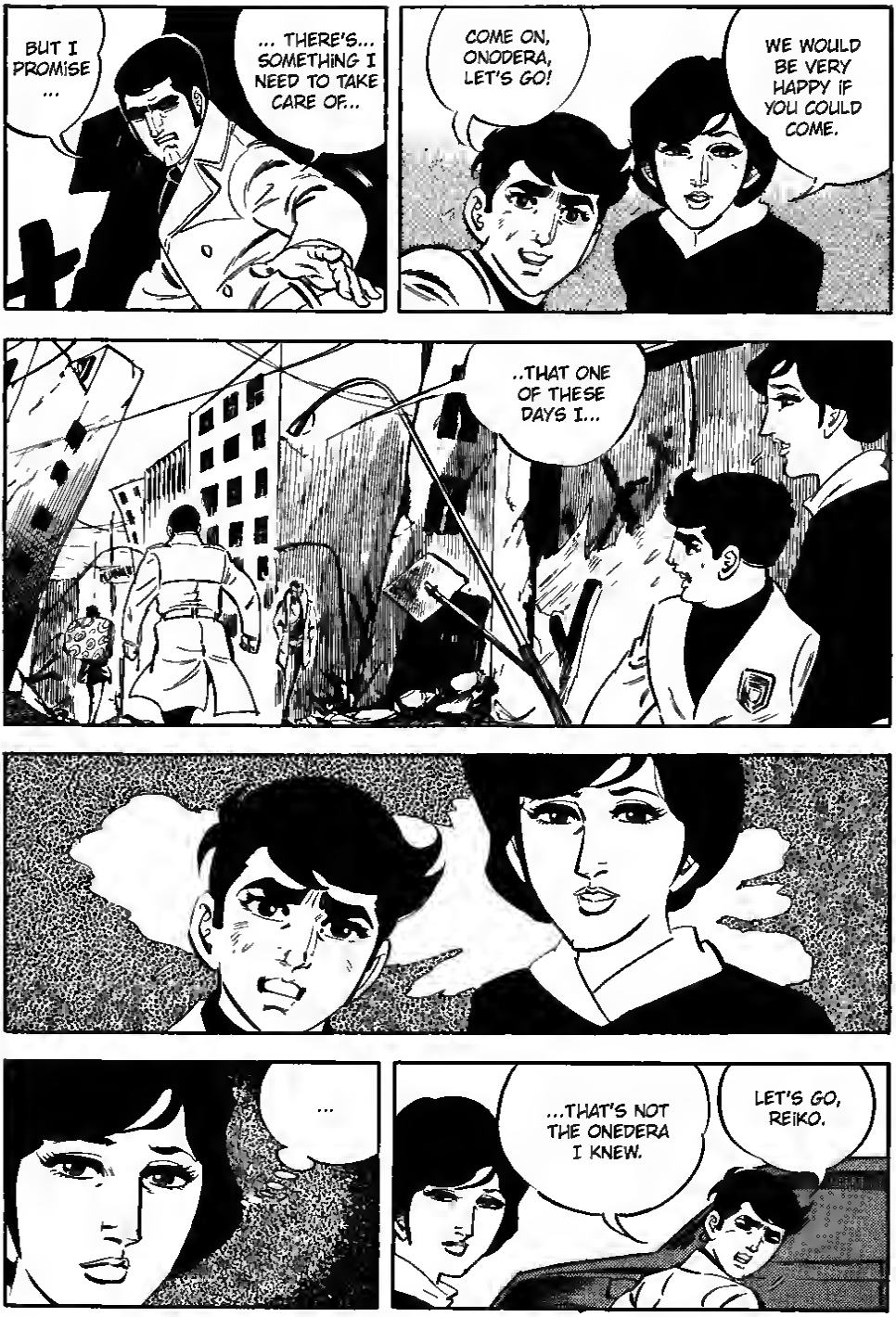
IT'S... ONODERA!
IT'S... HIM!
OH?! TORU!
ONODERA!
I'M SORRY ... I...
I THOUGHT YOU... WERE DEAD!
I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU!
TORU AND I UNDERSTOOD YOU MUST'VE HAD YOUR REASONS FOR NOT COMING.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T MAKE IT TO THE FUNERAL...
I... HEARD YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY.

I HEARD YOU'RE WORKING FOR A SALVAGE FIRM... IS IT TRUE?
WHAT'VE YOU BEEN UP TO?
IT WAS PARTLY DESTROYED BY THE FIRES... ONLY HALF OF IT IS STILL STANDING.
DID YOUR HOUSE IN YOYOGI SURVIVE THE QUAKE?
ONE DAY I'LL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT...
...IT'S A LONG STORY...
...I CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT NOW...
SORRY...
GOOD ON YOU!
MY SISTER WAS TOO SCARED TO MOVE SO... I GRABBED HER BY THE HAND AND WE RAN TO THE JINGU GARDENS!
HEY, YOU KNOW WHAT I DID DURING THE BIG QUAKE?
THERE'S SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT!
YOU MUST COME TO OUR HOUSE, ONODERA.
ACTUALLY...
COME ON, SIS, YOU TELL HIM TO COME TO THE HOUSE TOO!


BUT I PROMISE ...
... THERE'S... SOMETHING I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF...
COME ON, ONODERA, LET'S GO!
WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU COULD COME.
..THAT ONE OF THESE DAYS I...
...
...THAT'S NOT THE ONEDERA I KNEW.
LET'S GO, REIKO.

ガ
PLEASE FORGIVE ME...
...BLAH, BLAH...

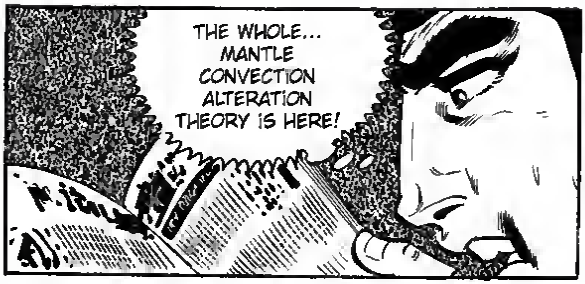
...HE SAYS... JAPAN IS SINKING...!
BUT... A VERY RESPECTED SCIENTIST SAID IT!
...WHAT NONSENSE...!
...JAPAN IS SINKING...!
...DON'T BE STUPID ...!

NEW WORLD WEEKLY
週刊新世界

GIVE ME ONE!

!!

田所博士
"THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO IS GOING UNDER!"
日本列島は沈没する!?
海底火山の権威 田所博士の予言
PREDICTS PROFESSOR TADORO, UNDERWATER VOLCANO EXPERT


THE WHOLE... MANTLE CONVECTION ALTERATION THEORY IS HERE!

WHAT A... FOOL!

WHY... WOULD HE DISCLOSE A NATIONAL SECRET?!
...THE FOOL!

BRP

新世界
NEW-WORLD WEEKLY

BUT... CAN WE BELIEVE THIS...? THE WHOLE COUNTRY... SINKING?
...NOW WE KNOW WHAT IT WAS ALL ABOUT!
LET'S GET GOING, WILSON!
ALL THE DIFFERENT PIECES OF THIS PUZZLE ARE FINALLY COMING TOGETHER.
BESIDES... IT TIES IN WITH THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT'S SUDDEN NEW INTEREST IN IMMIGRATION AND FOREIGN REAL ESTATE.
THIS TADORO GUY IS A VERY WELL-REGARDED SCHOLAR EVEN IN OUR COUNTRY.
THIS IS NOT AN ATTENTION-GRABBING RUSE, TRUST ME...
...SPEAKS BETTER JAPANESE THAN US. LET'S GO MEET OUR PEOPLE.
IN ANY CASE WE'D BETTER SHOW THIS TO SOMEONE WHO...
...THAT THIS HUGE COUNTRY IS GOING TO GO THE WAY OF ATLANTIS...
STILL, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE...
...BUT... WHEN WILL IT HAPPEN?
...IT'S SINKING, I'M TELLING YOU...!
...NO WAY...!
...JAPAN SINKING?

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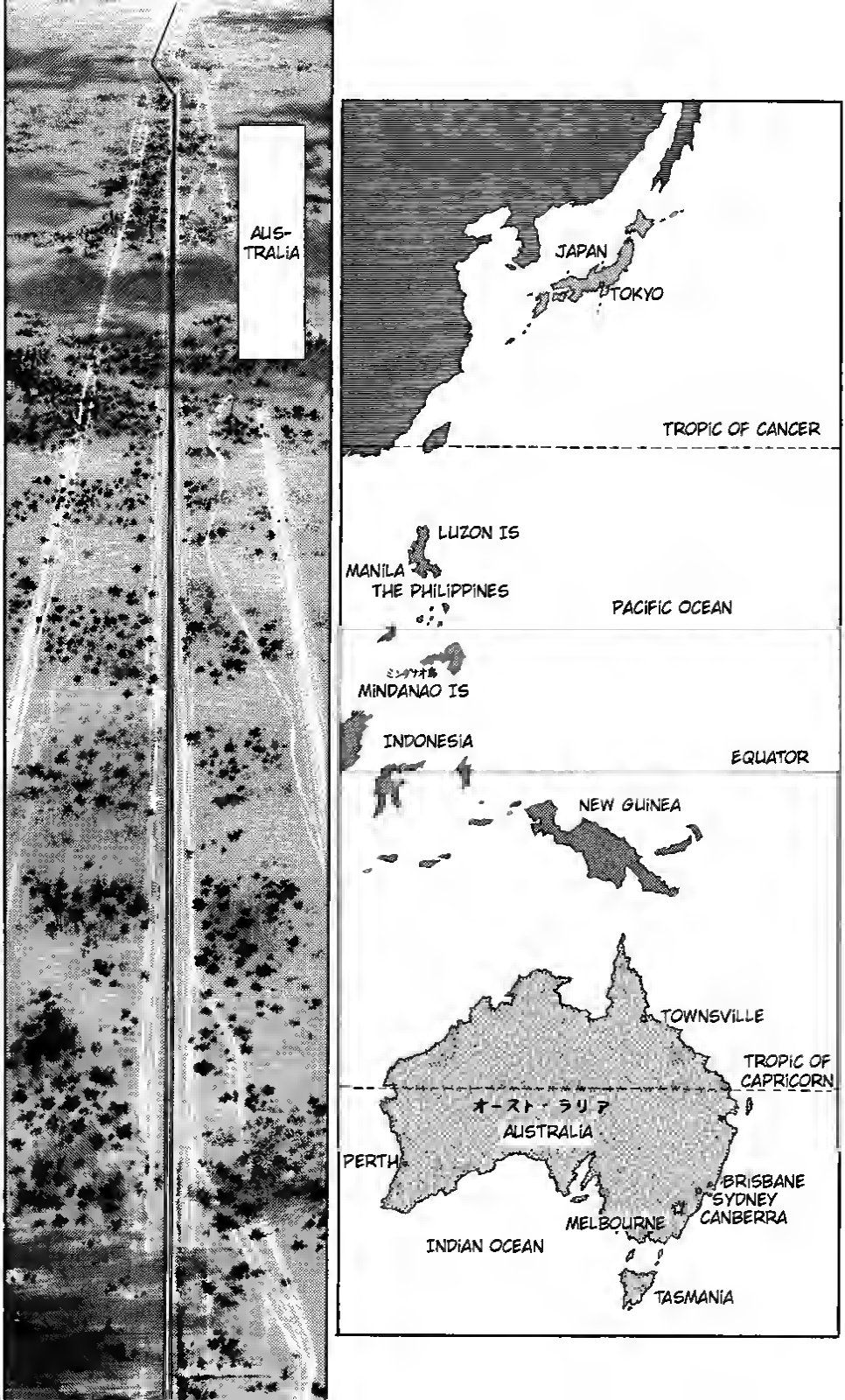
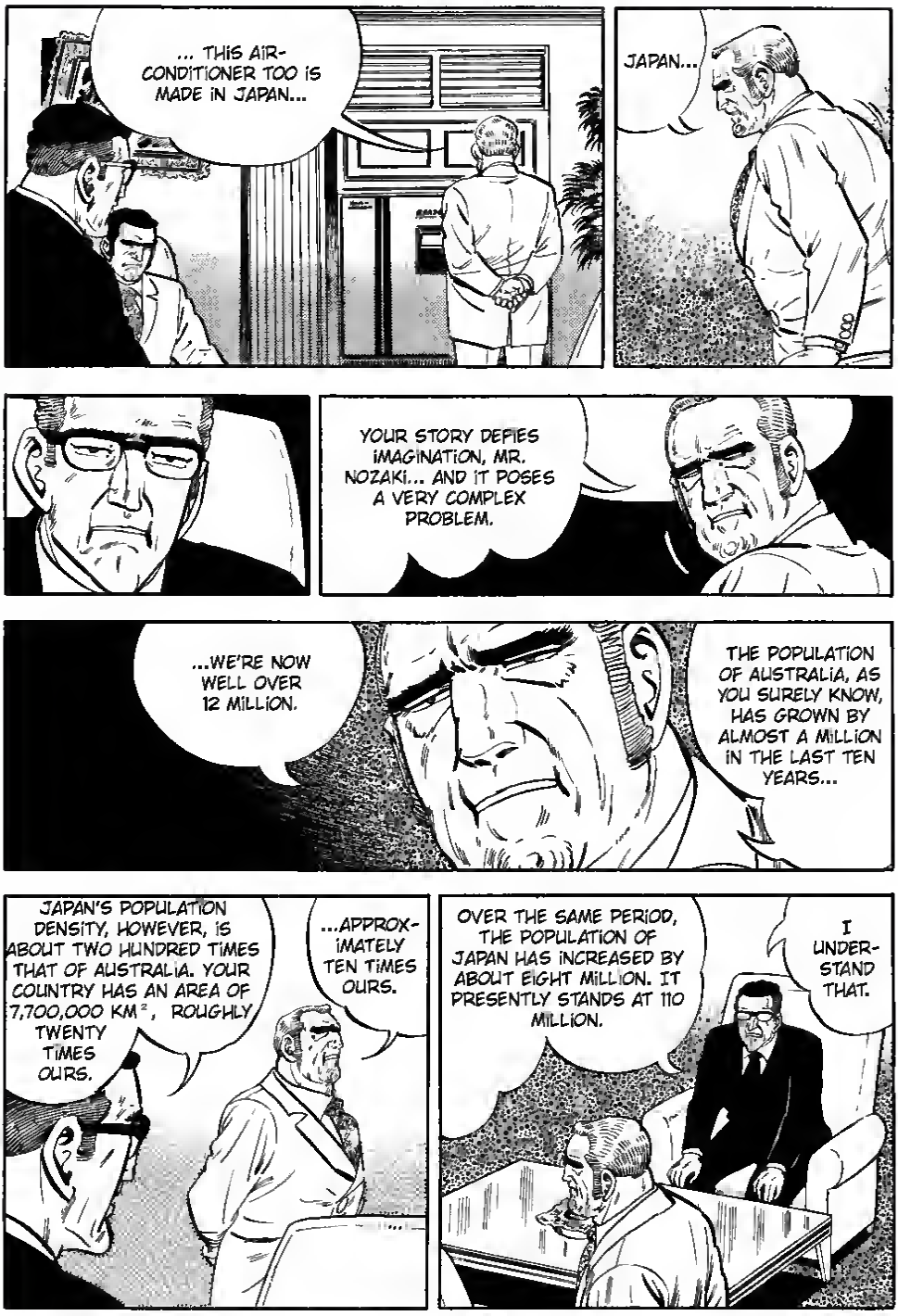
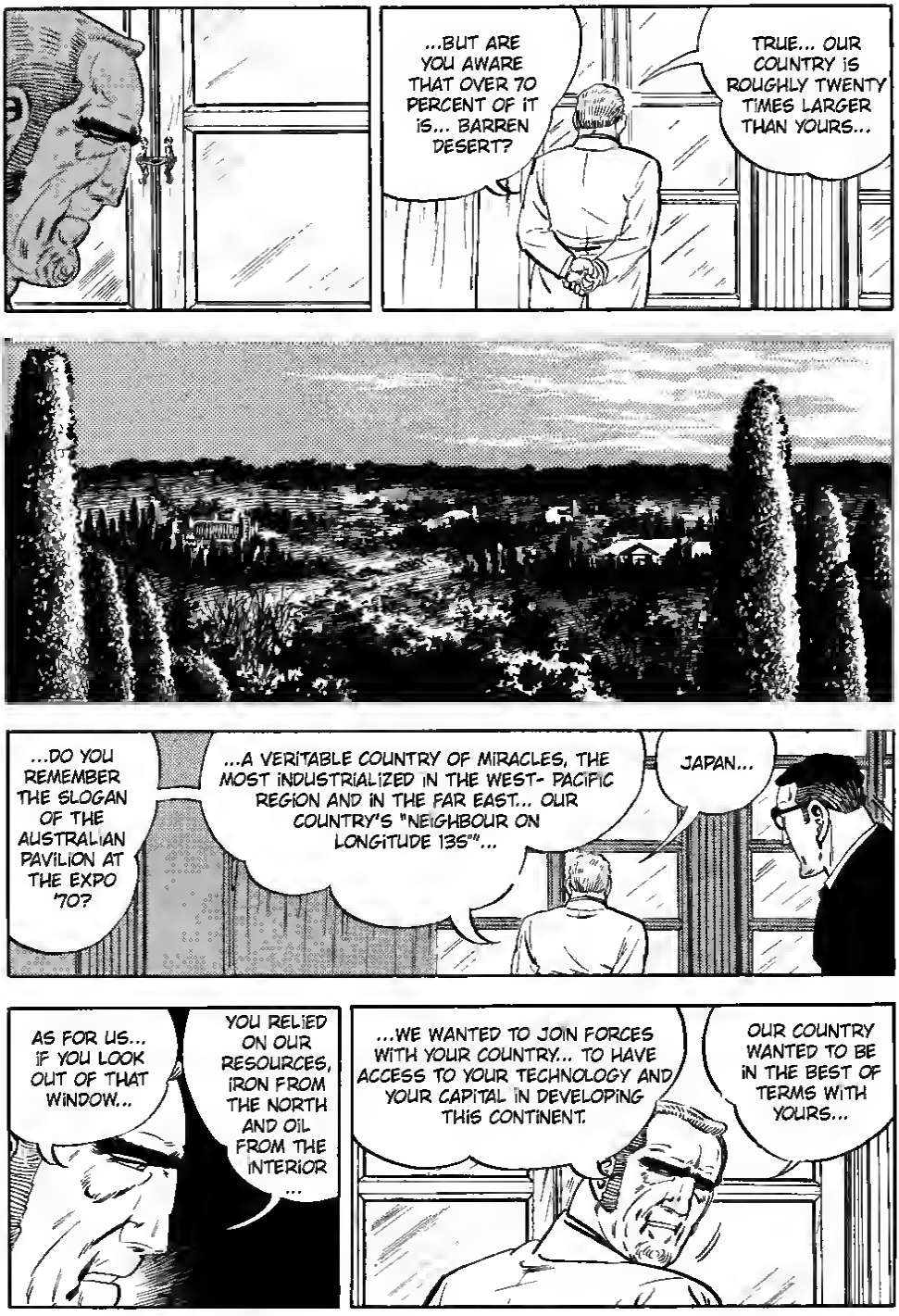
...WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO JAPAN NEXT?
WHAT...
...DID THE FATIGUE AND THE STRESS PUSH HIM OVER THE EDGE?
WAS HE DRUNK OR SOMETHING ?
...HE WAS THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH PLAN D IN THE FIRST PLACE!
FOOL!

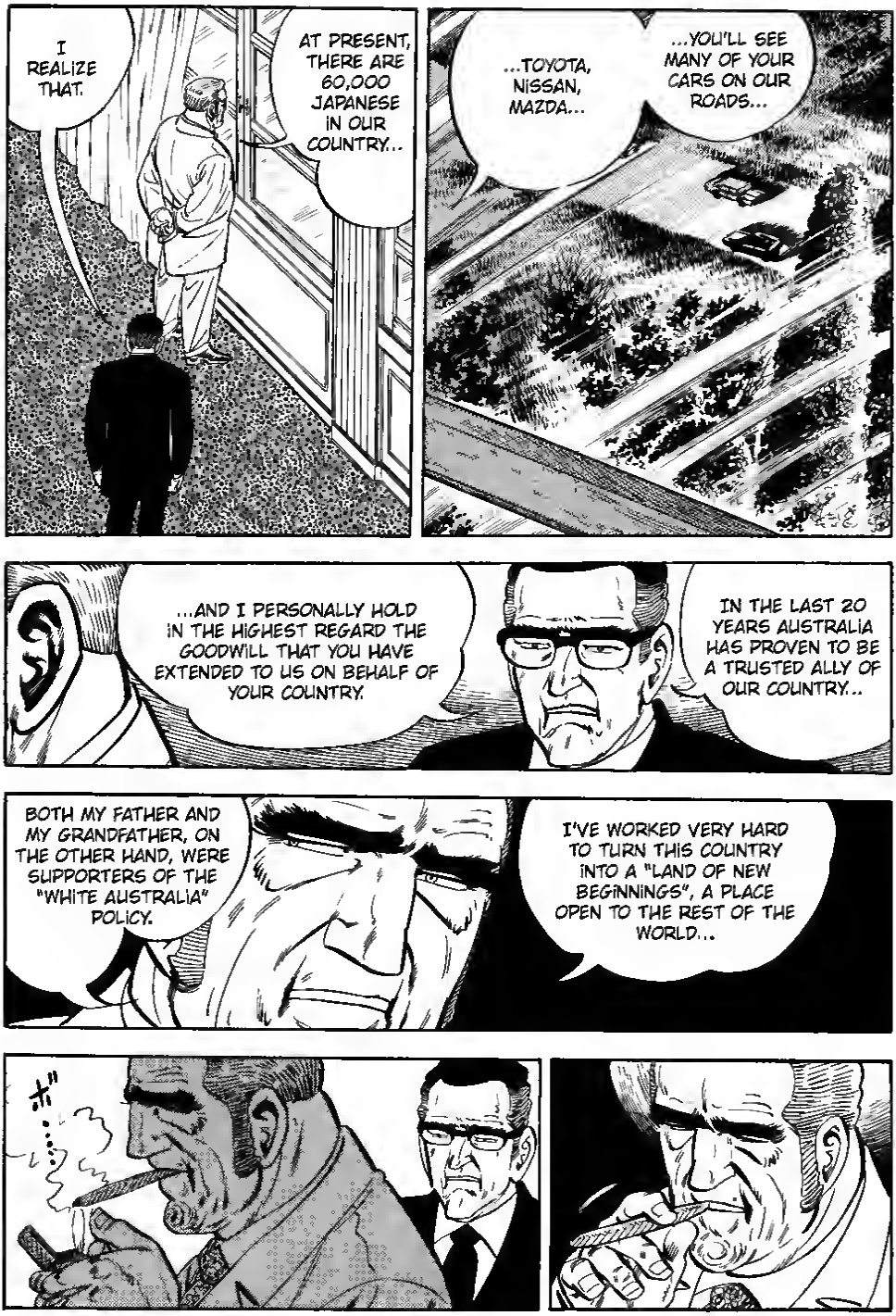

AUS-
TRALIA
JAPAN
TOKYO
TROPIC OF CANCER
LUZON IS
MANILA
THE PHILIPPINES
PACIFIC OCEAN
MINDANAO IS
INDONESIA
EQUATOR
NEW GUINEA
TOWNSVILLE
TROPIC OF
CAPRICORN
オーストラリア
AUSTRALIA
PERTH
BRISBANE
SYDNEY
CANBERRA
MELBOURNE
INDIAN OCEAN
TASMANIA

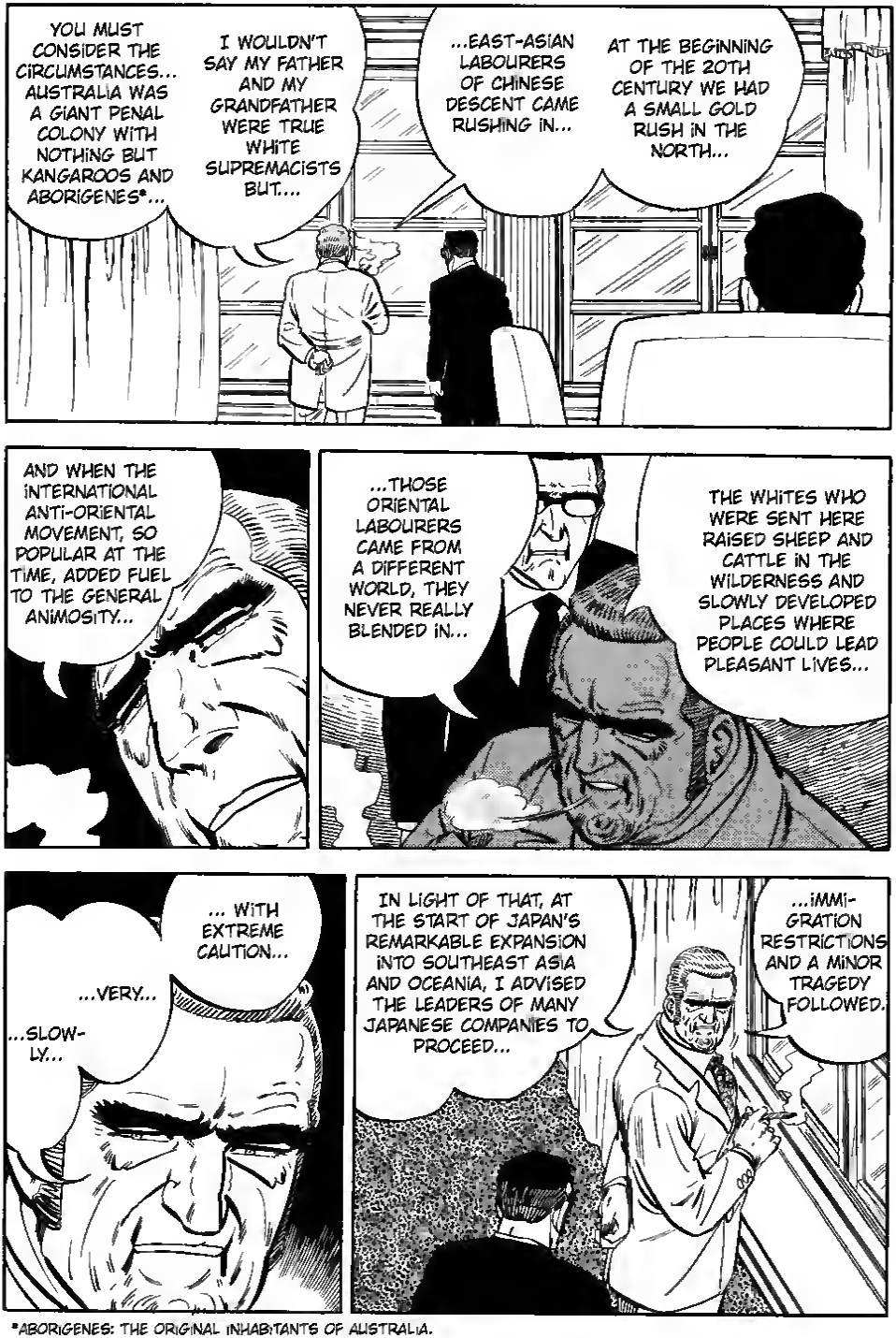
FEBRUARY. WHILE JAPAN WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER, AUSTRALIA STRADDLING THE TROPIC OF CAPRICORN WAS IN THE THROES OF A SWELTERING HEAT WAVE

IN THE PRIVATE VILLA OF A HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN RED HILL, A SUBURB OF CANBERRA...
...
...
...A SECRET MEETING BETWEEN THE AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER AND AN ENVOY OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS UNDER WAY.

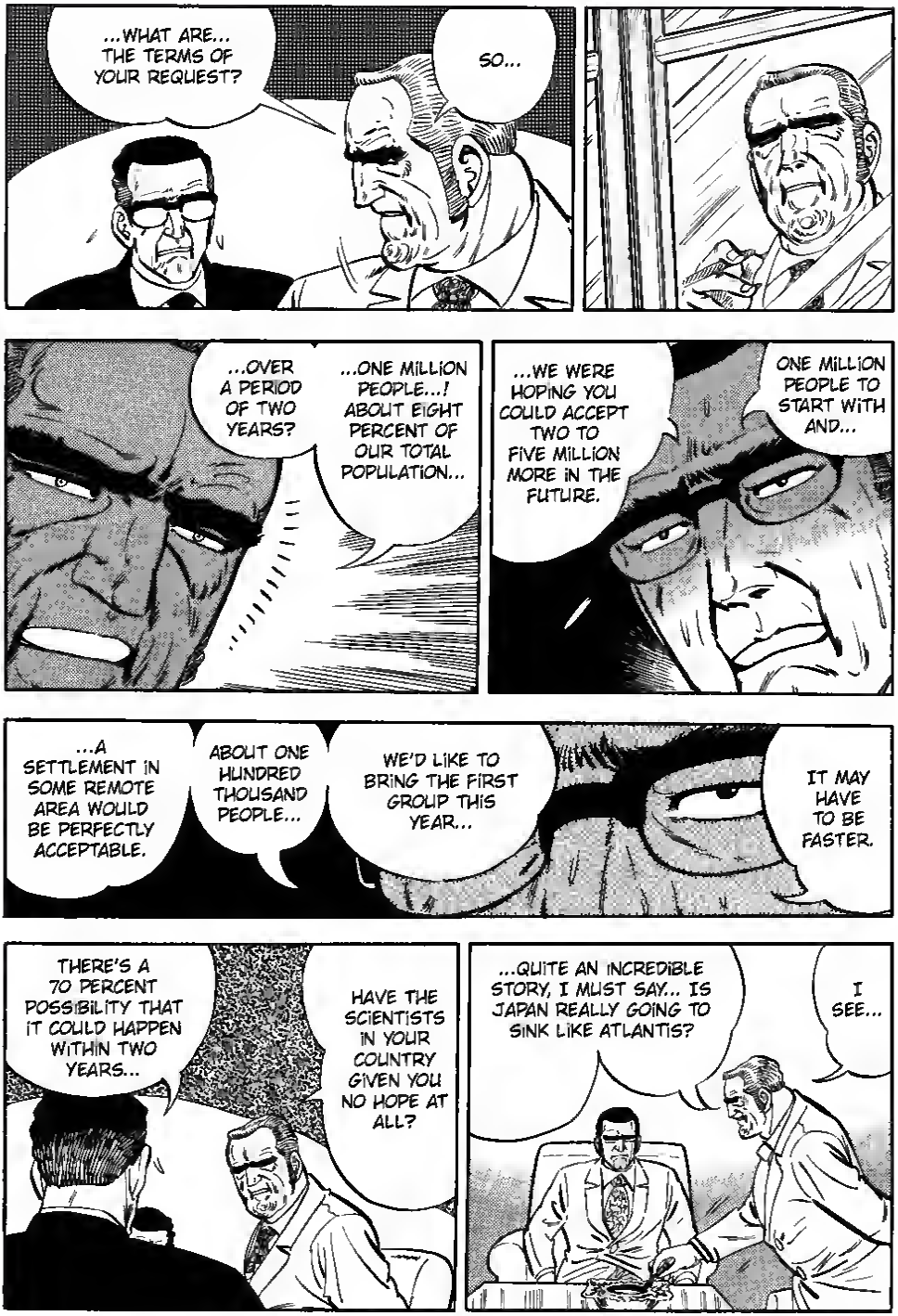

... THIS AIR-CONDITIONER TOO IS MADE IN JAPAN...
JAPAN...
YOUR STORY DEFIES IMAGINATION, MR. NOZAKI... AND IT POSES A VERY COMPLEX PROBLEM.
...WE'RE NOW WELL OVER 12 MILLION.
THE POPULATION OF AUSTRALIA, AS YOU SURELY KNOW, HAS GROWN BY ALMOST A MILLION IN THE LAST TEN YEARS...
JAPAN'S POPULATION DENSITY, HOWEVER, IS ABOUT TWO HUNDRED TIMES THAT OF AUSTRALIA. YOUR COUNTRY HAS AN AREA OF 7,700,000 KM², ROUGHLY TWENTY TIMES OURS.
...APPROX-IMATELY TEN TIMES OURS.
OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE POPULATION OF JAPAN HAS INCREASED BY ABOUT EIGHT MILLION. IT PRESENTLY STANDS AT 110 MILLION.
I UNDER-STAND THAT.

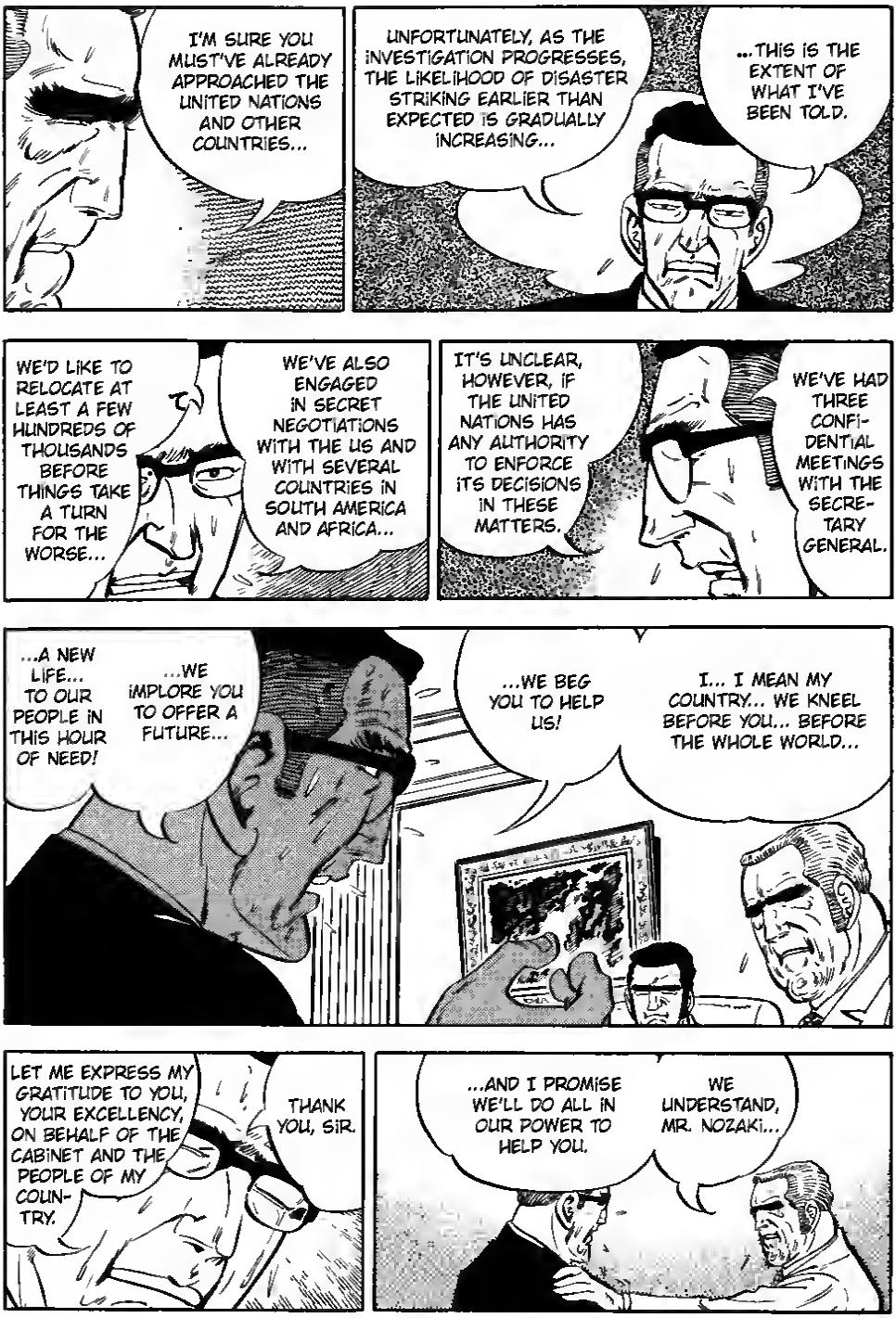

...BUT ARE YOU AWARE THAT OVER 70 PERCENT OF IT IS... BARREN DESERT?
TRUE... OUR COUNTRY IS ROUGHLY TWENTY TIMES LARGER THAN YOURS...
...DO YOU REMEMBER THE SLOGAN OF THE AUSTRALIAN PAVILION AT THE EXPO '70?
...A VERITABLE COUNTRY OF MIRACLES, THE MOST INDUSTRIALIZED IN THE WEST- PACIFIC REGION AND IN THE FAR EAST... OUR COUNTRY'S "NEIGHBOUR ON LONGITUDE 135°"...
JAPAN...
AS FOR US... IF YOU LOOK OUT OF THAT WINDOW...
YOU RELIED ON OUR RESOURCES, IRON FROM THE NORTH AND OIL FROM THE INTERIOR ...
...WE WANTED TO JOIN FORCES WITH YOUR COUNTRY... TO HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR TECHNOLOGY AND YOUR CAPITAL IN DEVELOPING THIS CONTINENT.
OUR COUNTRY WANTED TO BE IN THE BEST OF TERMS WITH YOURS...


I REALIZE THAT.
AT PRESENT, THERE ARE 60,000 JAPANESE IN OUR COUNTRY...
...TOYOTA, NISSAN, MAZDA...
...YOU'LL SEE MANY OF YOUR CARS ON OUR ROADS...
...AND I PERSONALLY HOLD IN THE HIGHEST REGARD THE GOODWILL THAT YOU HAVE EXTENDED TO US ON BEHALF OF YOUR COUNTRY.
IN THE LAST 20 YEARS AUSTRALIA HAS PROVEN TO BE A TRUSTED ALLY OF OUR COUNTRY...
BOTH MY FATHER AND MY GRANDFATHER, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE SUPPORTERS OF THE "WHITE AUSTRALIA" POLICY.
I'VE WORKED VERY HARD TO TURN THIS COUNTRY INTO A "LAND OF NEW BEGINNINGS", A PLACE OPEN TO THE REST OF THE WORLD...
ﾎﾞ……

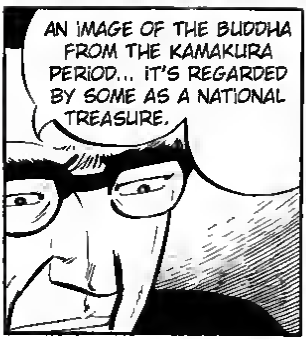

YOU MUST CONSIDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES... AUSTRALIA WAS A GIANT PENAL COLONY WITH NOTHING BUT KANGAROOS AND ABORIGENES*...
I WOULDN'T SAY MY FATHER AND MY GRANDFATHER WERE TRUE WHITE SUPREMACISTS BUT....
...EAST-ASIAN LABOURERS OF CHINESE DESCENT CAME RUSHING IN...
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY WE HAD A SMALL GOLD RUSH IN THE NORTH...
AND WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-ORIENTAL MOVEMENT, SO POPULAR AT THE TIME, ADDED FUEL TO THE GENERAL ANIMOSITY...
...THOSE ORIENTAL LABOURERS CAME FROM A DIFFERENT WORLD, THEY NEVER REALLY BLENDED IN...
THE WHITES WHO WERE SENT HERE RAISED SHEEP AND CATTLE IN THE WILDERNESS AND SLOWLY DEVELOPED PLACES WHERE PEOPLE COULD LEAD PLEASANT LIVES...
... WITH EXTREME CAUTION...
...VERY...
...SLOW-LY...
IN LIGHT OF THAT, AT THE START OF JAPAN'S REMARKABLE EXPANSION INTO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND OCEANIA, I ADVISED THE LEADERS OF MANY JAPANESE COMPANIES TO PROCEED...
...IMMI-GRATION RESTRICTIONS AND A MINOR TRAGEDY FOLLOWED.

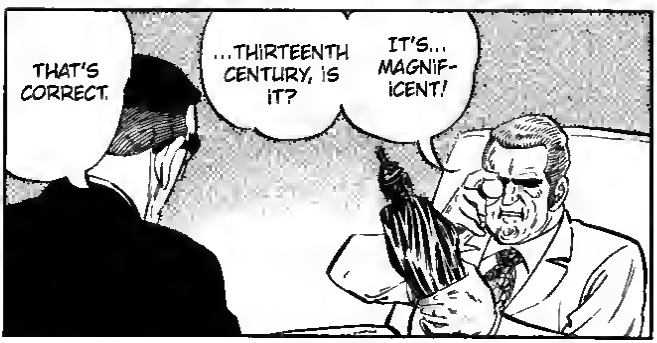
*ABORIGENES: THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS OF AUSTRALIA.

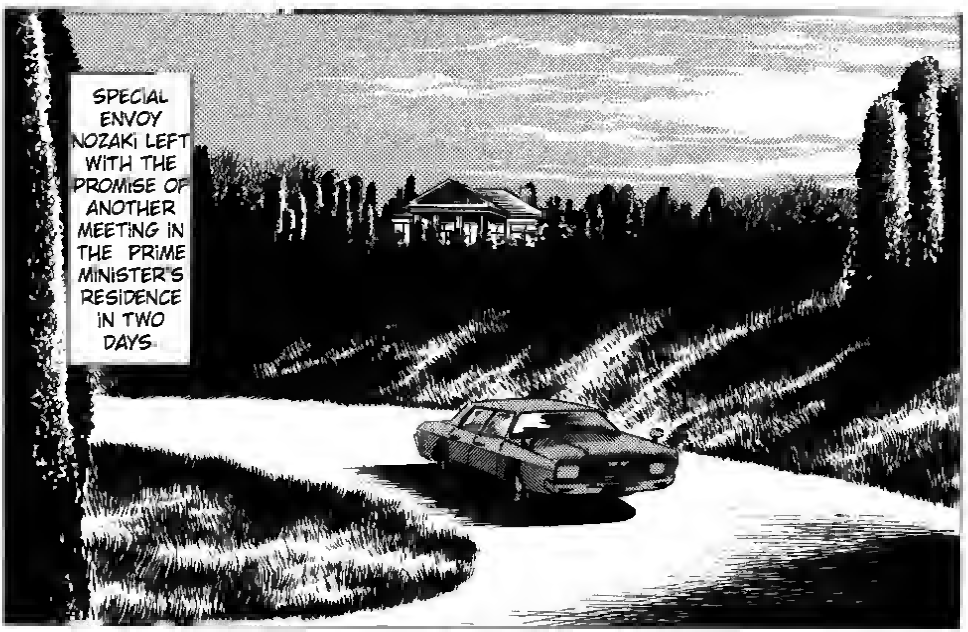

...WHAT ARE... THE TERMS OF YOUR REQUEST?
SO...
...OVER A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS?
...ONE MILLION PEOPLE...! ABOUT EIGHT PERCENT OF OUR TOTAL POPULATION...
...WE WERE HOPING YOU COULD ACCEPT TWO TO FIVE MILLION MORE IN THE FUTURE.
ONE MILLION PEOPLE TO START WITH AND...
...A SETTLEMENT IN SOME REMOTE AREA WOULD BE PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE.
ABOUT ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE...
WE'D LIKE TO BRING THE FIRST GROUP THIS YEAR...
IT MAY HAVE TO BE FASTER.
THERE'S A 70 PERCENT POSSIBILITY THAT IT COULD HAPPEN WITHIN TWO YEARS...
HAVE THE SCIENTISTS IN YOUR COUNTRY GIVEN YOU NO HOPE AT ALL?
...QUITE AN INCREDIBLE STORY, I MUST SAY... IS JAPAN REALLY GOING TO SINK LIKE ATLANTIS?
I SEE...


I'M SURE YOU MUST'VE ALREADY APPROACHED THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER COUNTRIES...
UNFORTUNATELY, AS THE INVESTIGATION PROGRESSES, THE LIKELIHOOD OF DISASTER STRIKING EARLIER THAN EXPECTED IS GRADUALLY INCREASING...
...THIS IS THE EXTENT OF WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD.
WE'D LIKE TO RELOCATE AT LEAST A FEW HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS BEFORE THINGS TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE...
WE'VE ALSO ENGAGED IN SECRET NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US AND WITH SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AMERICA AND AFRICA...
IT'S UNCLEAR, HOWEVER, IF THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ANY AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE ITS DECISIONS IN THESE MATTERS.
WE'VE HAD THREE CONFI-DENTIAL MEETINGS WITH THE SECRE-TARY GENERAL.
...A NEW LIFE... TO OUR PEOPLE IN THIS HOUR OF NEED!
...WE IMPLORE YOU TO OFFER A FUTURE...
...WE BEG YOU TO HELP US!
I... I MEAN MY COUNTRY... WE KNEEL BEFORE YOU... BEFORE THE WHOLE WORLD...
LET ME EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY, ON BEHALF OF THE CABINET AND THE PEOPLE OF MY COUN-TRY.
THANK YOU, SIR.
...AND I PROMISE WE'LL DO ALL IN OUR POWER TO HELP YOU.
WE UNDERSTAND, MR. NOZAKI...

IN ALL HONESTY, THERE ARE MANY ASPECTS OF THAT COUNTRY WE DO NOT FULLY COMPREHEND BUT... THEIR PAST TREATMENT OF ETHNIC MINORITIES GIVES US SOME HOPE.
YES, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE JEWS THOUGH...
THEY TOO HAVE VERY VAST TERRITORIES IN ASIA.
HAVE YOU OPENED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION?
I BELIEVE NEGO-TIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY.
YET, IF YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR HISTORICAL TIES AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...
...GIVEN THEIR EIGHT HUNDRED MILLION POPULATION...
I IMAGINE YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT MUCH HELP FROM CHINA...
...A PRESENT FROM OUR PEOPLE, NOT JUST FROM OUR PRIME MINISTER.
IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR MEETING TODAY... THINK OF IT AS...
I BROUGHT A HUMBLE GIFT FOR YOUR EXCELLENCY...

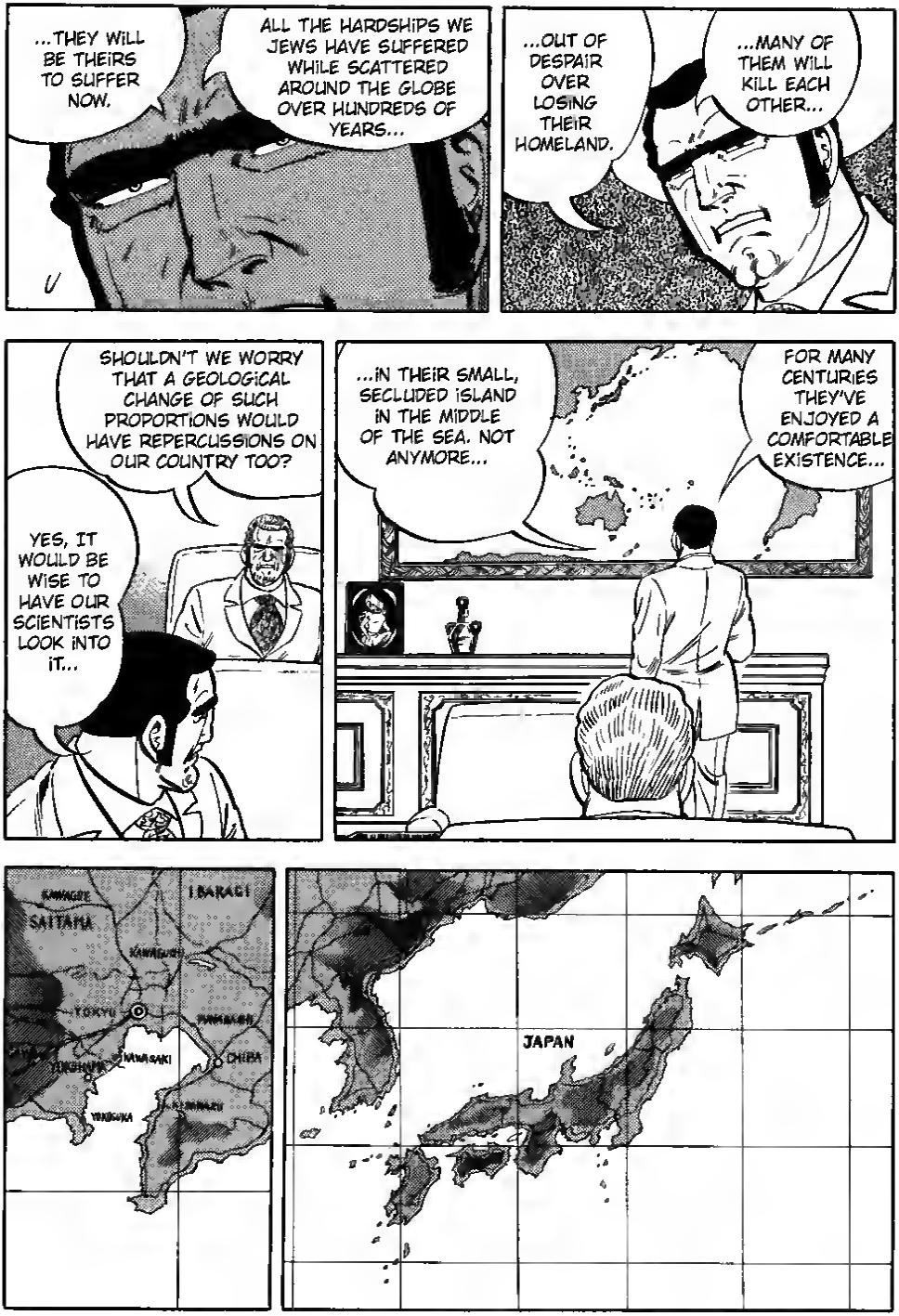

AN IMAGE OF THE BUDDHA FROM THE KAMAKURA PERIOD... IT'S REGARDED BY SOME AS A NATIONAL TREASURE.

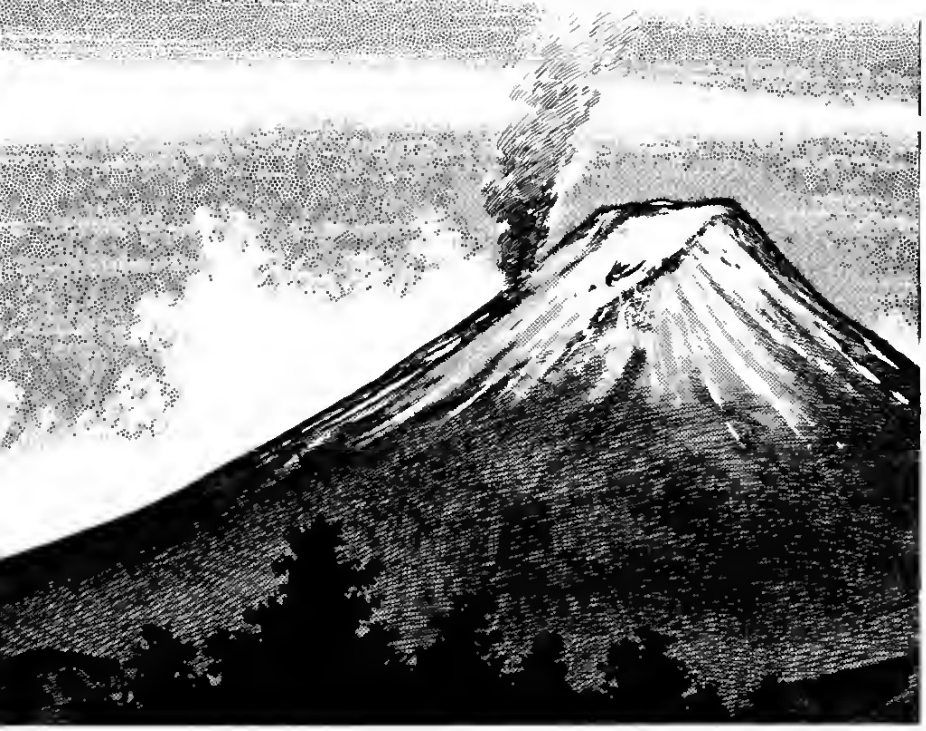

THAT'S CORRECT.
...THIRTEENTH CENTURY, IS IT?
IT'S... MAGNIF-ICENT!


SPECIAL ENVOY NOZAKI LEFT WITH THE PROMISE OF ANOTHER MEETING IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE IN TWO DAYS.

I SUSPECT THEY WILL SOON START TAKING THEIR CULTURAL ASSETS OUT OF THE COUNTRY IN INCONSPICUOUS WAYS...
SOME REAL RARITIES WILL BE TRANSPORTED ABROAD... IT'S HARD NOT TO SEE A CONNECTION WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING.
THREE EXHIBITIONS OF ANCIENT JAPANESE ART HAVE ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED IN EUROPE AND AMERICA FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.
I WISH WE ONLY HAD TO ACCEPT BEAUTIFUL STATUES LIKE THIS ONE...
IT WON'T BE SO EASY TO GET SUCH ARTIFACTS OUT OF THE COUNTRY AT THE LAST MINUTE.
SOME OF THE PIECES HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN ABROAD AND SOLD. MANY HAVE ALSO BEEN DONATED... TO BUY THE GOOD-WILL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.
...THEY HAVE A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING.
WE'LL HAVE TO FEED THEM AND HOUSE THEM... AND THEIR NUMBERS WILL GROW WITH TIME... AND LET'S NOT FORGET...
...THAT'S ALMOST FORTY PERCENT OF OUR PRESENT POPULATION... ONE IN THREE AUSTRALIANS WILL BE ORIENTAL.
IF WE TAKE IN FIVE MILLION JAPANESE...

...THERE ARE A LOT OF UNDEVELOPED AREAS IN THE INTERIOR...
THE BEST POLICY WOULD BE SEPARATION...
WITH FIVE MILLION PEOPLE... WE COULD START SEVERAL SETTLEMENTS IN THE DESERT...
...REFUGEE CAMPS...? CONFINEMENT CAMPS...? GHETTOS...? I DON'T KNOW HOW IT WILL PLAY OUT... BUT I KNOW WE'VE JUST TAKEN A COMMITMENT THAT WILL CAUSE US A LOT OF GRIEF OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS...
HOW MANY SHIPS DO YOU THINK YOU'D NEED?
...WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
IMAGINE YOU'RE ONE OF THEIR LEADERS, ONE OF THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE...
...WILL THE REST OF THE WORLD ACCEPT SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES?
HOW ON EARTH WILL THEY EVACUATE ONE HUNDRED AND TEN MILLION PEOPLE...?
THEY WILL FACE MANY PROBLEMS... REJECTION, PERSECUTION...
AND THOSE WHO WILL BE RESETTLED... THEY WILL BE SEEN MOSTLY AS A NUISANCE...
ABOUT HALF OF THEM WON'T SURVIVE, I'M AFRAID... HARD DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN.

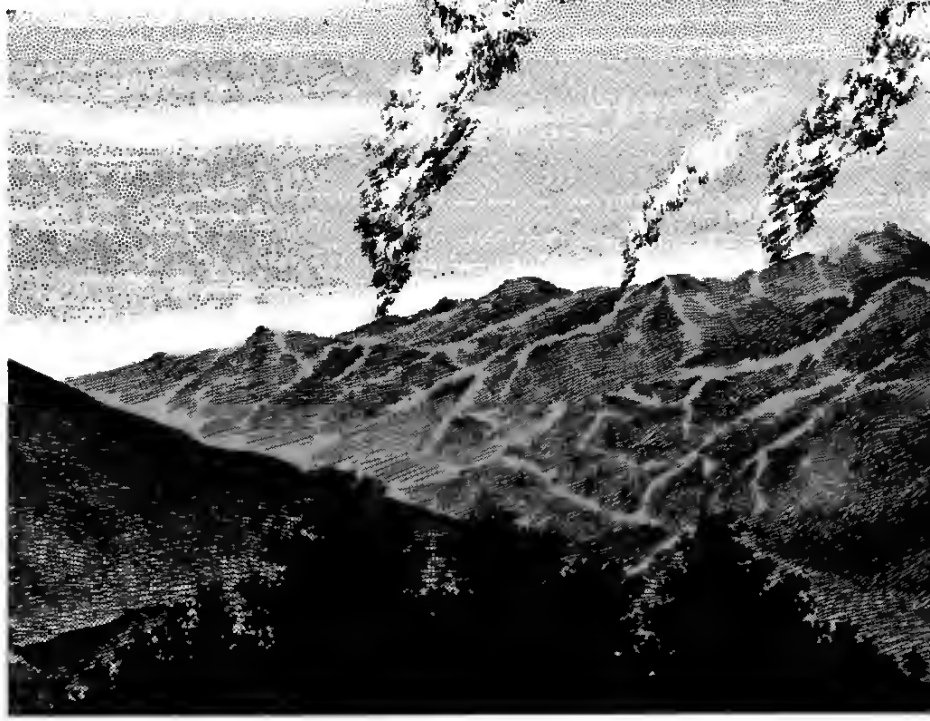

...THEY WILL BE THEIRS TO SUFFER NOW.
ALL THE HARDSHIPS WE JEWS HAVE SUFFERED WHILE SCATTERED AROUND THE GLOBE OVER HUNDREDS OF YEARS...
...OUT OF DESPAIR OVER LOSING THEIR HOMELAND.
...MANY OF THEM WILL KILL EACH OTHER...
SHOULDN'T WE WORRY THAT A GEOLOGICAL CHANGE OF SUCH PROPORTIONS WOULD HAVE REPERCUSSIONS ON OUR COUNTRY TOO?
YES, IT WOULD BE WISE TO HAVE OUR SCIENTISTS LOOK INTO IT...
...IN THEIR SMALL, SECLUDED ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SEA. NOT ANYMORE...
FOR MANY CENTURIES THEY'VE ENJOYED A COMFORTABLE EXISTENCE...
IBARAGI
SAITAMA
TOKYO
CHIBA
JAPAN



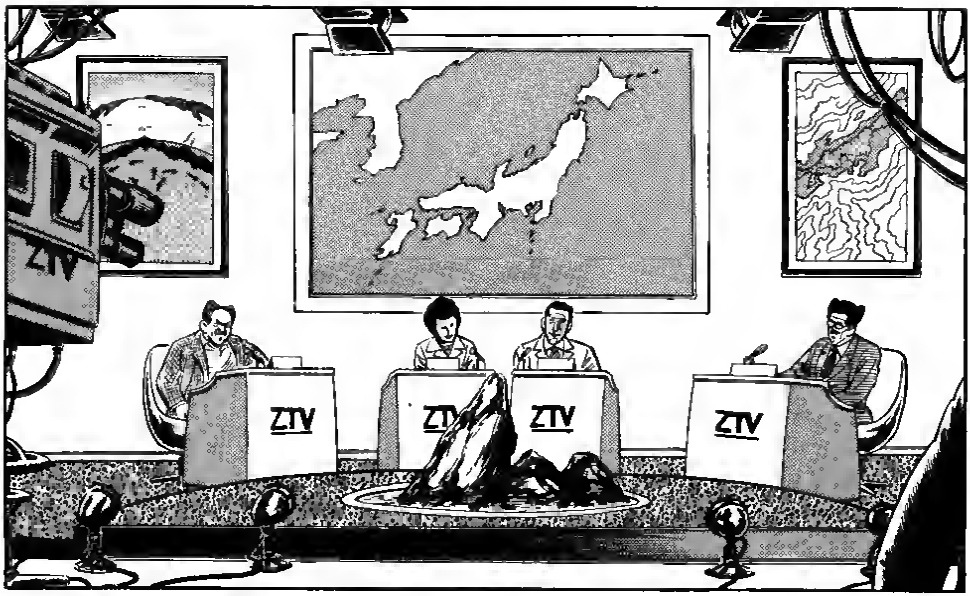
...NOW EVEN MT. FUJI'S HOEi CRATER iS GiViNG SiGNS OF AN ERUPTiON!
... iT'S NOT JUST THEM! THE WHOLE OF JAPAN iS GOiNG CRAZY!
...THEY MUST BE CRAZY TO PRINT HiS WORDS!
HE WAS DRUNK WHEN HE SAID THAT...!

... EVERYONE WiLL BE WATCHiNG, WHETHER THEY BELiEVE iT OR NOT!

THAT GUY... TADORO, HE'S GOiNG TO BE ON TV TODAY!
THERE iS NO WAY JAPAN iS EVER GOiNG TO SiNK!
I DON'T BELiEVE ANY OF THAT!



BUT... THEY QUOTE PROFESSOR TADORO... A VERY RESPECTED SCHOLAR...
...iT'S THE TABLOiDS... THEY BLOW EVERYTHiNG OUT OF PROPORTiON!
...THAT'S PREPOS-TEROUS!
WHAT? ...JAPAN SiNKiNG?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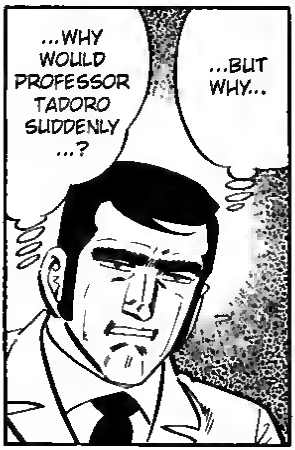
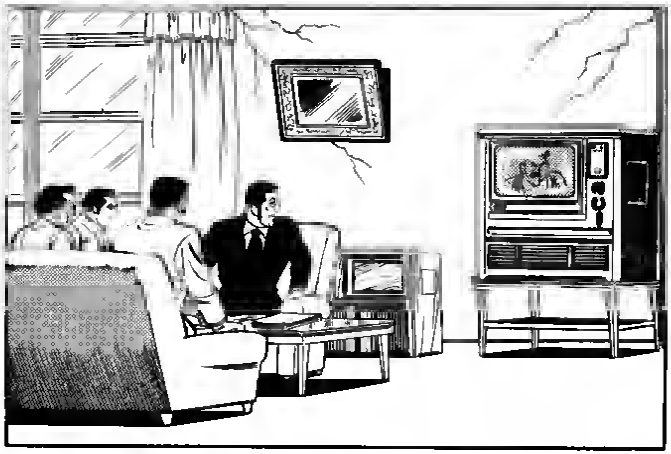
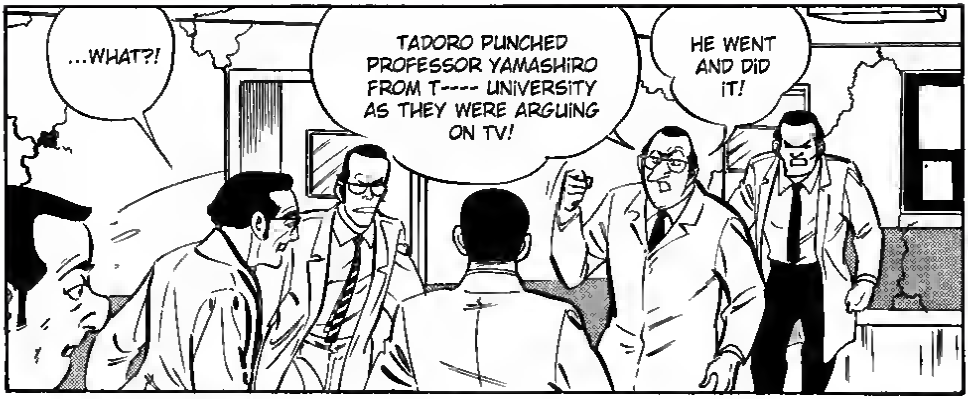

...WHY WOULD PROFESSOR TADORO SUDDENLY ...?
...BUT WHY...



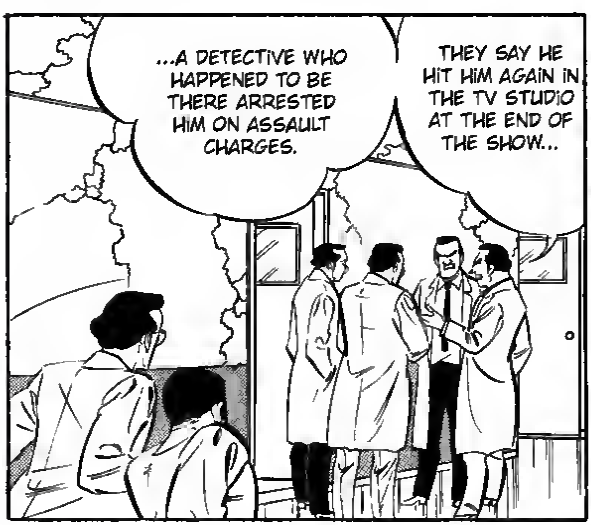
...FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MODERN EARTH SCIENCE, THE CONCEPT OF THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO SINKING IS... RIDICULOUS.
THERE IS NO DENYING THAT JAPAN IS EXPERIENCING AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF EARTHQUAKES...
...AND THAT WE'RE SEEING AN UNUSUAL DEGREE OF OROGENIC ACTIVITY AND CRUSTAL MOVEMENTS...
... HOWEVER ...
...IF YOU CAN'T PROVE YOUR CONCLUSIONS BEYOND ANY DOUBT...
EVERYONE'S FREE TO PURSUE THEIR INVESTIGATIONS BUT...
YOU WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT! EVEN IF YOU KNEW, YOU'D NEVER-
ONLY THE DESTRUCTION OF JAPAN CAN PROVE MY THEORY!
CAN ANYTHING BE PROVEN BEYOND ANY DOUBT IN THIS WORLD?
...YOUR WORK WILL ONLY CREATE SOCIAL UNREST.
ZTV
...IDIOT...!

PROFESSOR TADORO, PLEASE...! PROFESSOR!
WHAT'S GOT INTO HIM...?!


...WHAT?!
TADORO PUNCHED PROFESSOR YAMASHIRO FROM T---- UNIVERSITY AS THEY WERE ARGUING ON TV!
HE WENT AND DID IT!

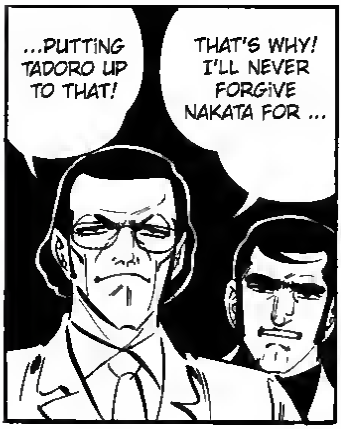
WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M GOING TO GIVE THAT DAMN NAKATA A... GOOD THRASHING!

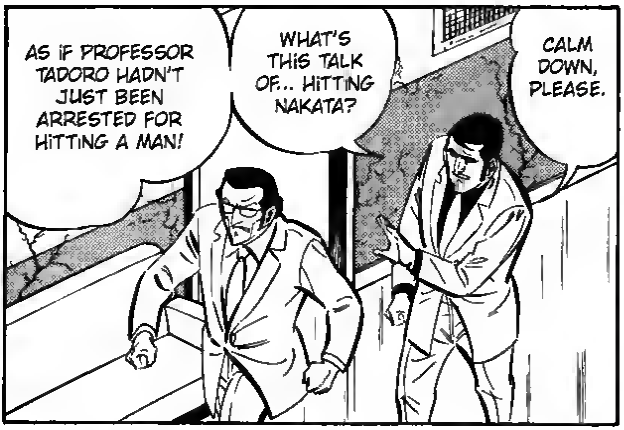
COME WITH ME!

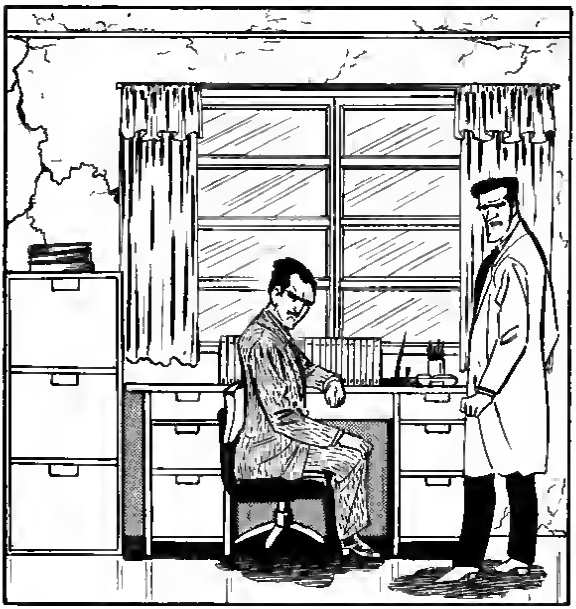

...A DETECTIVE WHO HAPPENED TO BE THERE ARRESTED HIM ON ASSAULT CHARGES.
THEY SAY HE HIT HIM AGAIN IN THE TV STUDIO AT THE END OF THE SHOW...

...WHAT?
TADORO HAS BEEN ARRESTED!

RUMOUR HAS IT HE GOT COMPLETELY DRUNK BEFORE THE SHOW.
...HE SHOVED THE DETECTIVE TOO.


...PUTTING TADORO UP TO THAT!
THAT'S WHY! I'LL NEVER FORGIVE NAKATA FOR ...


AS IF PROFESSOR TADORO HADN'T JUST BEEN ARRESTED FOR HITTING A MAN!
WHAT'S THIS TALK OF... HITTING NAKATA?
CALM DOWN, PLEASE.

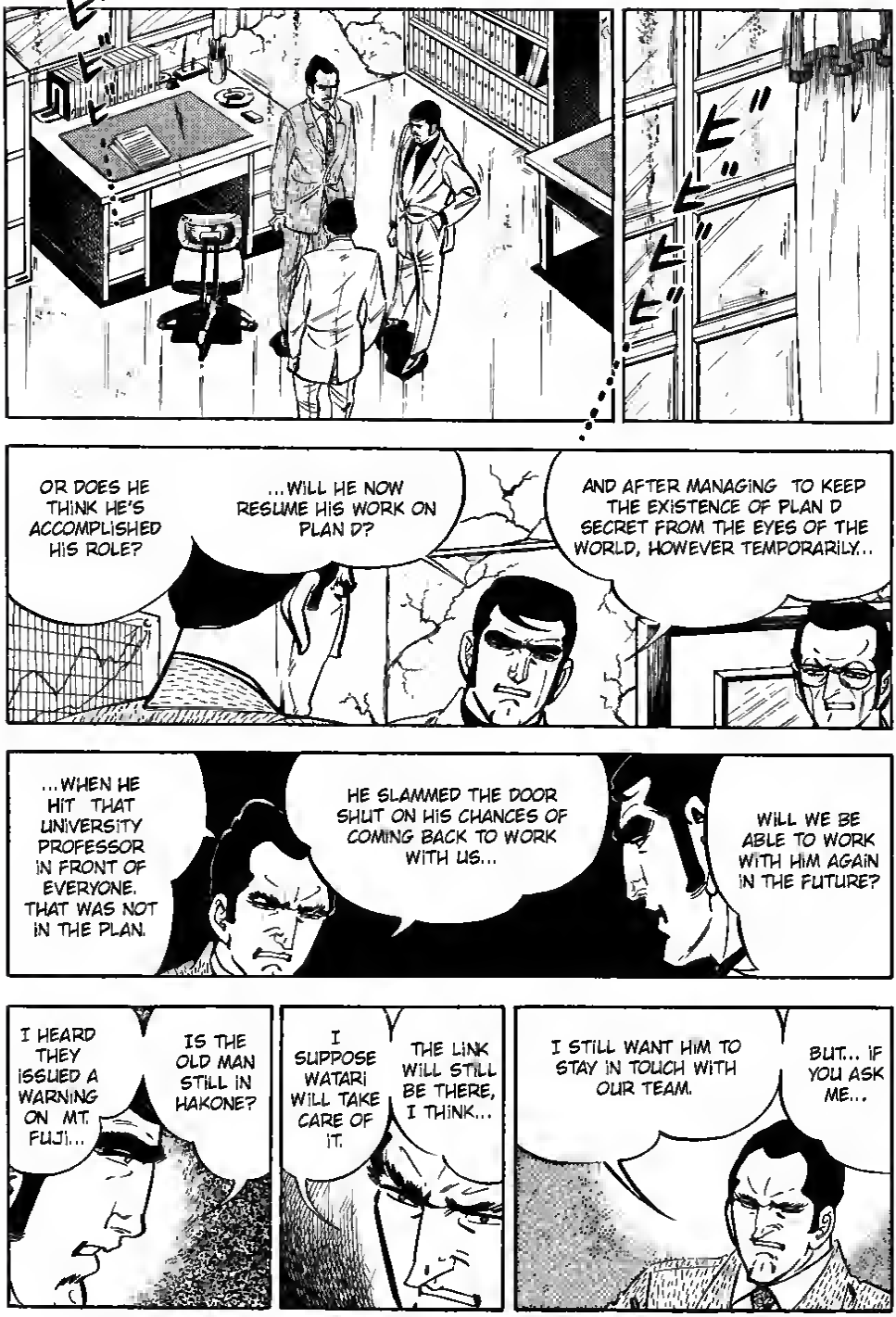


YOU'RE DESPICABLE!
HOW COULD YOU...?!
?!
YOU SHOULD'VE STOPPED HIM!
IT'S TRUE! HE DID IT AFTER DISCUSSING IT WITH WATARI...
HE... DECIDED TO GO ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE.
I DIDN'T ASK HIM TO DO IT...
...WHY DIDN'T YOU INFORM ME BEFOREHAND...?
YOU SHOULD'VE THOUGHT ABOUT HIS REPUTATION! YOU KNOW HE'S MY MENTOR...
... IT WORKED EVEN TOO WELL... I MAY ADD.
AND FRANKLY, IT WOULDN'T HAVE WORKED WITH ANYBODY BUT HIM.
IF I HAD, YOU WOULD'VE PROBABLY STOPPED HIM...

...THAT YOU SET HIM UP TO IT!
WHAT I UNDERSTAND IS...
...OR THAT I COULD'VE EVER DECEIVED HIM?
DO YOU REALLY THINK HE COULD BE TRICKED INTO DOING SOMETHING?
...HE JUST OVERHEARD OUR PLAN AND OFFERED TO CARRY IT OUT.
...BUT I DIDN'T ASK HIM TO DO IT, TRY TO UNDERSTAND...
THE MOMENT PROFESSOR TADORO SUGGESTED IT, I THOUGHT HE'D BE PERFECT FOR IT...
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD'VE PLAYED THAT ROLE AS CONVINCINGLY AS TADORO?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUKINAGA?
TELL ME... DO YOU THINK ANYBODY ELSE WOULD HAVE BEEN AS CONVINCING?
TADORO... HE OFFERED TO HELP US PULL A LITTLE... "DIVERSIONARY STUNT."
...WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN?
I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND BUT...
...

I HEARD HE JUST GOT ARRESTED ON ASSAULT CHARGES...
...THOUGH I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO DO WHAT HE DID.
YES, AND SO WAS THE TALK SHOW...
WAS THE LEAK TO THE MAGAZINE PART OF IT?
SO... WE DECIDED TO RESORT TO A TRIED AND TESTED STRATEGY... EXECUTE A "CONTROLLED LEAK" AND WATCH THE REACTIONS...
WE KNEW WE COULDN'T KEEP OUR OPERATION SECRET MUCH LONGER...
...TADORO WENT AHEAD AND DID THINGS HIS OWN WAY!
...BUT BEFORE WE'D AGREED ON WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO ATTAIN OUR GOALS...
WE REASONED A GOSSIP MAGAZINE WOULD WORK BETTER THAN A MAJOR NEWSPAPER...
...PROFESSOR TADORO WAS MADE TO GIVE THAT TERRIFYING PIECE OF NEWS HIMSELF TO MINIMIZE THE SHOCK OF THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT...
NOW I SEE...
...IT WORKED BETTER THAN WE DARED TO HOPE... THOUGH THE ENDING WAS COMPLETELY UNEXPECTED.
I MUST SAY...

...THAT NOT A SINGLE WORD ABOUT PLAN D OR ABOUT THE SPECIFICS OF OUR WORK ESCAPED HIS LIPS.
IF YOU READ THE WEEKLY RAGS YOU'D REALIZE...
KNOWING THE PROFESSOR... I'M NOT SURPRISED HE DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PLAN ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE...
I SEE... HE IS A VERY ODD INDIVIDUAL... AND A GREAT MAN.
TO AVOID BEING LINKED TO US HE EVEN RESIGNED FROM PLAN D.
...I THINK I UNDERSTOOD HIM BETTER THAN MOST PEOPLE.
THERE WAS ANOTHER REASON...
...HE HAS NO FAMILY, NO INTEREST IN FAME OR SOCIAL STATUS...
OF COURSE IT WAS EASY FOR HIM...
...ABOUT BEING THE ONE WHO... DISCOVERED THE CHANGE.
...ABOUT WHAT?
...SAD, YOU SAY?
...BUT I THINK HE WAS ALSO... TERRIBLY SAD.
SURE, HE WAS NEVER CONCERNED WITH SOCIAL STATUS OR DAMAGE TO HIS REPUTATION...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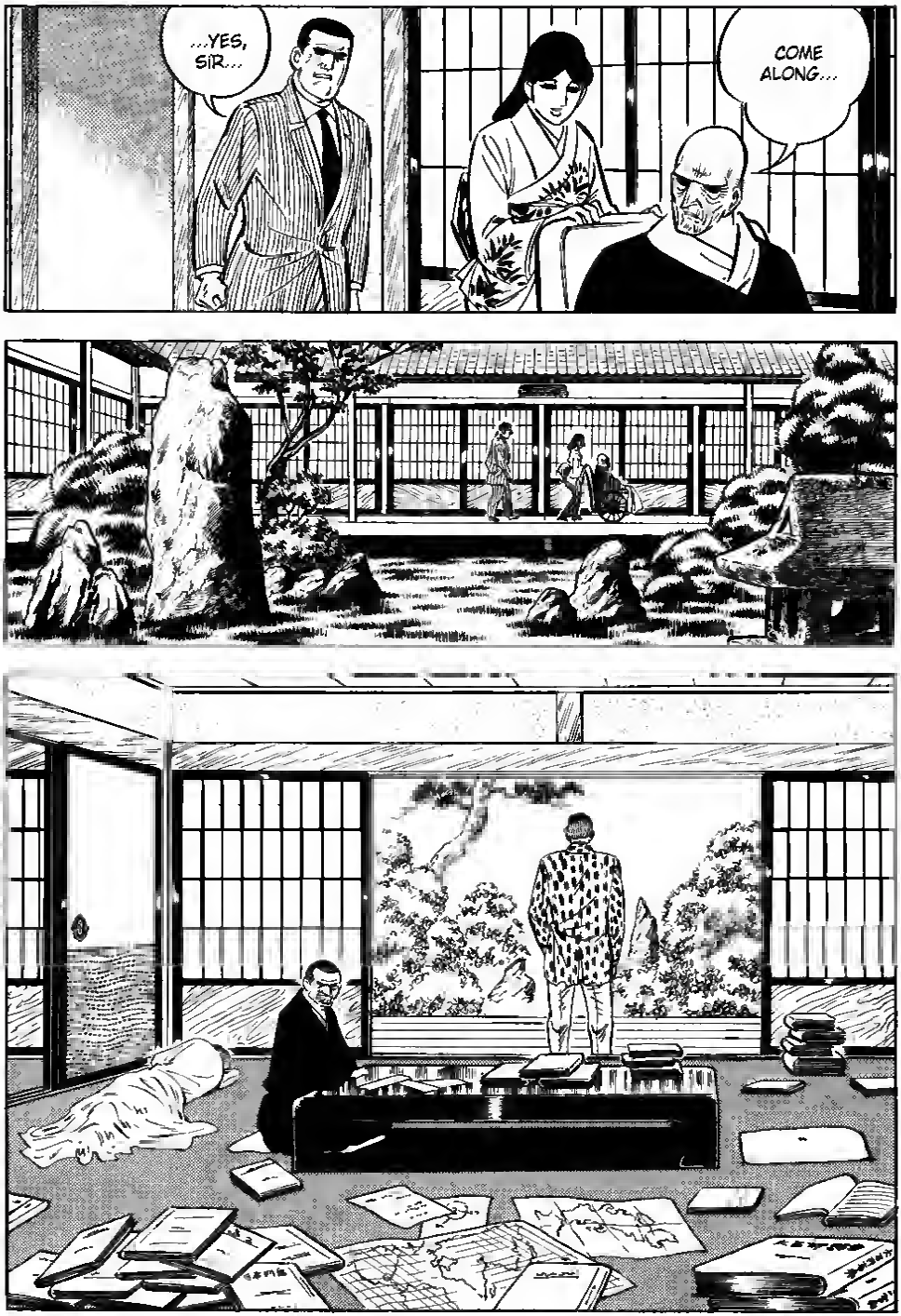
AND AFTER MANAGING TO KEEP THE EXISTENCE OF PLAN D SECRET FROM THE EYES OF THE WORLD, HOWEVER TEMPORARILY..
...WILL HE NOW RESUME HIS WORK ON PLAN D?
OR DOES HE THINK HE'S ACCOMPLISHED HIS ROLE?
WILL WE BE ABLE TO WORK WITH HIM AGAIN IN THE FUTURE?
HE SLAMMED THE DOOR SHUT ON HIS CHANCES OF COMING BACK TO WORK WITH US...
...WHEN HE HIT THAT UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR IN FRONT OF EVERYONE. THAT WAS NOT IN THE PLAN.
BUT.. IF YOU ASK ME...
I STILL WANT HIM TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH OUR TEAM.
THE LINK WILL STILL BE THERE, I THINK...
I SUPPOSE WATARI WILL TAKE CARE OF IT.
IS THE OLD MAN STILL IN HAKONE?
I HEARD THEY ISSUED A WARNING ON MT. FUJI...

SOMEBODY SENT IT TO MY DESK ABOUT AN HOUR AGO. DID YOU SEE IT?
I ALMOST FORGOT...
I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR FAMILY SINCE YOU QUIT YOUR JOB. HAS IT BEEN A LONG TIME?
...
TOSHIO ONODERA
小野寺悦夫
母死んだすぐかえれ
兄
MOTHER'S DEAD. COME BACK ASAP.
BROTHER
A SELF-DEFENSE FORCE TRANSPORT PLANE IS LEAVING TO ITAMI FROM ATSUGI. YOU ARE STILL IN TIME TO BOARD IT.
...YOU SHOULD TAKE A BREAK FROM THE JOB AND GO PAY A VISIT...
YOUR HOMETOWN IS IN WEST-ERN JAPAN ...
YES, IT'S A GOOD IDEA...

HAKO-
NE
THE STEAM FROM THE OSAWA LANDSLIDE HAS INTENSIFIED... AND NOW THERE'S ALSO SMOKE COMING OUT FROM BELOW THE HOEI CRATER! THERE'S NO ONE LEFT IN THE WEATHER STATION ON THE SUMMIT, EXCEPT FOR THE EMERGENCY STAFF.

KUNI-EDA.
IF KOMAGADAKE OR ANY ANOTHER MOUNTAIN IN THE HAKONE AREA SHOULD ERUPT, WE'D PROBABLY GET A GOOD VIEW.
CAN WE SEE THE ERUPTION FROM HERE...?
OLD MAN WATARI
I CAN TELL... I STILL HAVE A FEW DAYS...
IT'S OKAY. MY TIME HASN'T COME YET.
WE SUGGEST YOU GO BACK TO TOKYO IMMEDIATELY, IN CASE SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN...
WE HAVE THREE CARS AT YOUR COMPLETE DISPOSAL, SIR... PRIME MINISTER'S ORDERS.
ALL THEY SEEM TO DO, SIR, IS... WALK AROUND AND CHAT ...
ARE THEY REALLY MAKING PROGRESS?
...BESIDES, THEY SHOULD BE DONE BY THIS EVENING...
GOOD.
THEY SAY THEY'RE FINISHED IN THE COTTAGE, SIR.
AT LEAST AT THE START THEY WERE TAKING NAPS BUT NOW... I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER THEIR BODIES CAN TAKE IT.
THEY HAVEN'T SLEPT A WINK FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS.


...YES, SIR...
COME ALONG...

IS IT FINISHED?
日本民族の将来
D2基本要綱
THE FUTURE OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE
D-2 BASIC FRAMEWORK
...WE HAVE A ROUGH OUTLINE...
FUKU-HARA.
...AND, IF POSSIBLE, ONE MORE IN AFRICA...
WE SUGGEST... ONE MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY IN AMERICA... A SECOND ONE IN CHINA...
ABOUT THE IMPERIAL FAMILY... IS IT SWITZERLAND?
...AND LIFE WILL NOT BE EASY FOR THE REMAINING HALF.
NEARLY HALF OF THE POPULATION WILL PROBABLY PERISH...
THE SECOND WITH THOSE WHO WILL BE SCATTERED IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND BECOME CITIZENS THERE...
THE FIRST DEALS WITH THOSE WHO WILL ESTABLISH A NEW COUNTRY SOMEWHERE...
THEY DEAL WITH DIFFERENT SCENARIOS, NOT GEOGRA-PHICAL AREAS.
I SEE...
YOU'VE MADE THREE... DIVISIONS?

WE FEEL THE JEWISH PEOPLE'S TWO THOUSAND-YEAR LONG EXILE IS NOT COMPARABLE TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE'S TWO THOUSAND-YEAR LONG HAPPY CONFINEMENT TO OUR OWN ISLAND-NATION...
THE CASE OF THE JEWS IS NOT REALLY RELEVANT HERE...
...DEALS WITH THOSE WHO'LL HAVE NOWHERE IN THE WORLD TO GO.
THE THIRD...
WITHIN THIS THIRD ENVELOPE THERE'S YET ANOTHER ENVELOPE...
...
...WILL WE STILL BE ABLE TO CALL OURSELVES JAPANESE?
WILL THE DIASPORA* TEACH US ANYTHING OVER THE YEARS...?
IT EXPRESSES THE POINT OF VIEW THAT... NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE.
...HOWEVER, SINCE IT SEEMED TO BE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF OUR WORK, WE PRESENTED IT AS A SEPARATE OPINION.
NONE OF US DISAGREED WITH THE VIEW EXPRESSED IN THIS ENVELOPE...

*DIASPORA: DISPERSION. USUALLY REFERS TO THE SCATTERING OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AFTER LEAVING THEIR ANCESTRAL HOMELAND IN PALESTINE.

...
...NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE...
...MAY BE TO LET 110 MILLION JAPANESE SINK TOGETHER WITH THEIR COUNTRY, DOING ABSOLUTELY NOTHING ABOUT IT.
... YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE BEST THING FOR JAPAN AND ITS PEOPLE...
...BETWEEN THE JAPANESE AND THE OTHER PEOPLES OF THE WORLD.
HERE PROBABLY LIES THE MOST STRIKING DIFFERENCE...
I'M NOT SURPRISED SUCH AN OPINION HAS BEEN VOICED...
I SEE...
YES, SIR.
COME HERE, HANAE...
WHEN YOU EXPRESSED THIS OPINION, DID YOU TAKE AGE INTO CONSIDERATION?

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT GIRLS AND BOYS, LIKE HER?
SHE'S NOT EVEN 20... SHE HAS NEVER BEEN WITH A MAN... MOST OF HER LIFE IS STILL AHEAD OF HER...
...LOOK AT THIS YOUNG GIRL.
...IF WE HADN'T MENTIONED IT, WE WOULD HAVE FAILED TO GIVE A FULL PICTURE OF ALL THE OPTIONS ON THE TABLE...
...HOW-EVER...
WE ARE AWARE IT'S A VERY RADICAL OPINION...
...WE SHOULD NOT DEMAND OR REQUEST... ANYTHING... OF ANY COUNTRY OR THE WORLD...
THE IDEA UNDERLYING ALL OUR CONSIDERATIONS WAS THAT...

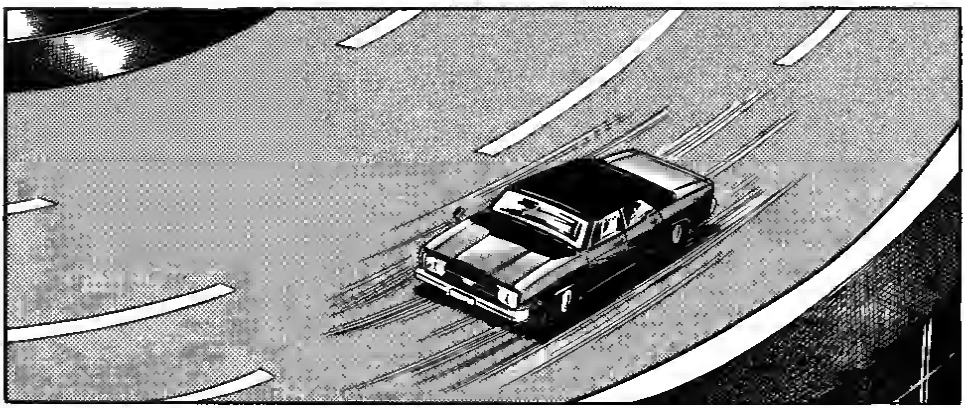
...AND WE ARE AWARE THAT THIS SITUATION... WILL LAST FOR A LONG... LONG TIME.
HUMAN SOCIETY IS NOT READY TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ANOTHER PEOPLE TO LIVE OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS...
THE OUTSIDE WORLD... IS NOT YET READY TO ACCEPT DEMANDS FROM JAPAN...
BUT WE CANNOT MAKE ANY DEMANDS... FOR THEY WILL NOT BE MET. WE WILL HAVE TO SURVIVE BY OUR OWN POWER...
THE JAPANESE PEOPLE WILL BE REDUCED TO LIVING IN THE CORNERS OF OTHER NATIONS...
DECLARATIONS ARE JUST THAT... WORDS.
...STATES THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS NOT JUST THE RIGHT TO EXIST BUT TO LIVE-
THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS...
EVEN THE IDEA THAT A COUNTRY'S CITIZENS AND ITS GOVERNMENT HAVE RECIPROCAL RIGHTS AND DUTIES HAS TAKEN HOLD ONLY VERY RECENTLY...
UNFORTUNATELY, THE RIGHT OF AN INDIVIDUAL TO IMPOSE DEMANDS ON THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEEN ESTABLISHED IN PRACTICE...

EVEN IF THEY SURVIVE... OUR DESCENDANTS... WILL FACE MANY HARDSHIPS...
ONE WOULD ASSUME THAT ONCE JAPAN IS GONE FOREVER... ONCE IT'S TAKEN FROM US... WE WILL SIMPLY BECOME ORDINARY HUMAN BEINGS BUT...
...THINGS ARE MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT.
WHETHER THEY'LL STILL EXIST AS JAPANESE, OR WILL STOP BEING JAPANESE ALTOGETHER... FROM NOW ON THE PROBLEMS THEY'LL FACE WILL BE DETERMINED BY OUTSIDE CIRCUMSTANCES THEY CANNOT CONTROL...
ONCE THE PHYSICAL COUNTRY IS GONE, JAPAN'S CULTURE, ITS HISTORY... THE WHOLE LOT... WILL CEASE TO EXIST TOO.
WE HAVE OUR CULTURE, HISTORY, LANGUAGE... CALL IT OUR "HISTORICAL KARMA"...
BUT THE JAPANESE... THEY ARE A YOUNG PEOPLE...
...FULL OF ENERGY... AND THIS "LIVING KARMA" WILL LIVE ON...

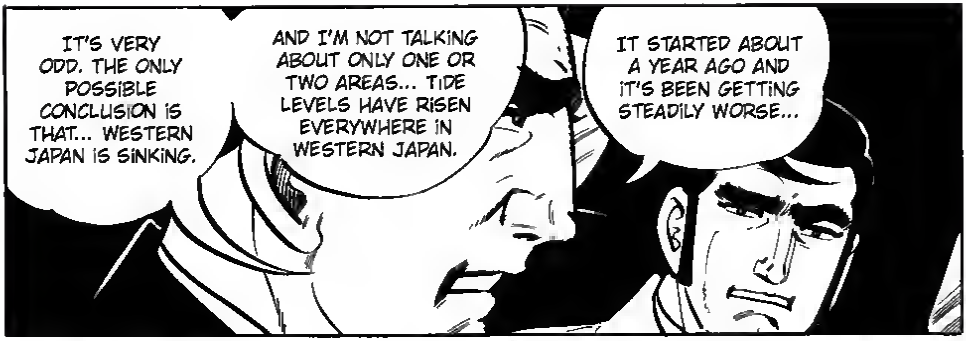
THE HOEI CRATER HAS FINALLY ERUPTED...
I REALLY BELIEVE WE NEED TO MAKE HASTE...
WON'T YOU GO TO TOKYO, SIR?
...UNGHH...
WE HAVE CARS, AND IT WOULDN'T BE SAFE TO REMAIN HERE...
THESE GENTLEMEN CAN ALSO COME WITH US...

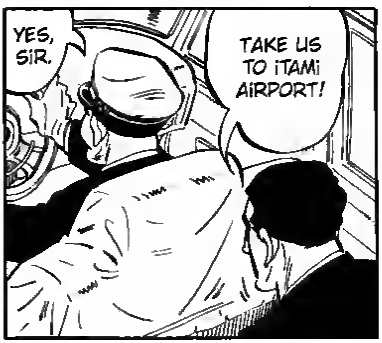
MASTER, PROFESSOR FUKUHARA... HE...
FUKUHARA!
...HE'S SIGHED HIS LAST BREATH.
IT WON'T HELP...
CALL A DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY!
TATSUNO, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING...
HASAE, INFORM THE PROFESSOR'S FAMILY AT ONCE!

OSAKA



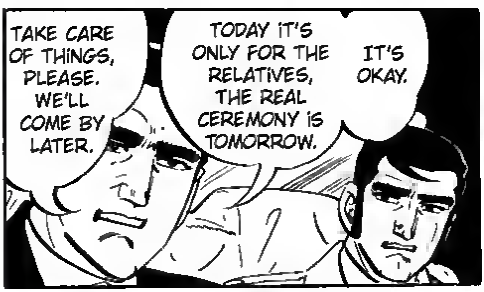
REALLY? WHY...?
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT... CHANGING JOBS LATELY...
YES... LAND SUBSIDENCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM IN WESTERN JAPAN...
THE SINKING... IS IT SO SERIOUS?
THE GROUND IS SINKING AT SUCH A RATE THAT MOST PROJECTS HAVE EITHER BEEN CANCELLED OR PUT ON HOLD... OUR COMPANY HAS LOST A LOT OF WORK...
...
IN SOME PLACES THE GROUND IS SINKING AT A RATE OF TWO CM A DAY...
...BUT NOW IT'S REALLY TAKING A TOLL ON THE ECONOMY.


IT'S VERY ODD. THE ONLY POSSIBLE CONCLUSION IS THAT... WESTERN JAPAN IS SINKING.
AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT ONLY ONE OR TWO AREAS... TIDE LEVELS HAVE RISEN EVERYWHERE IN WESTERN JAPAN.
IT STARTED ABOUT A YEAR AGO AND IT'S BEEN GETTING STEADILY WORSE...

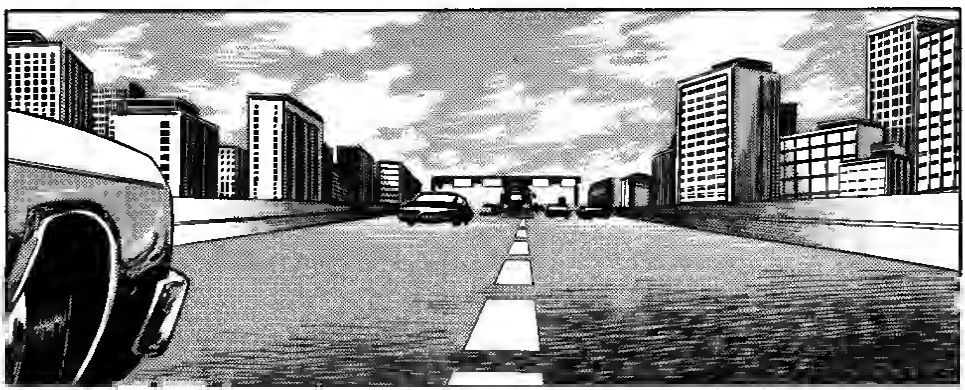

YES, SIR.
TAKE US TO ITAMI AIRPORT!

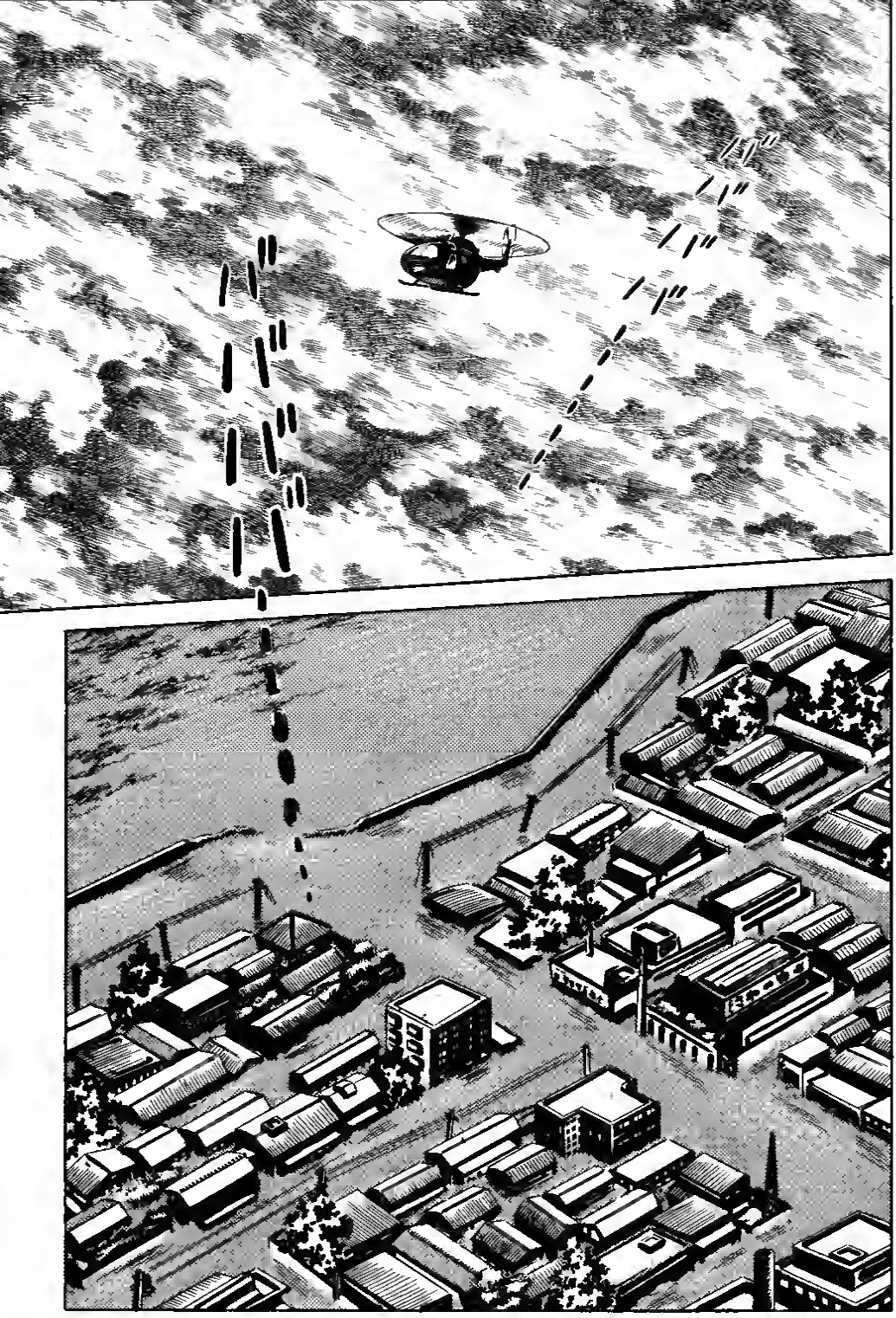
MY FIRM HAS A HELICOPTER. I'LL SHOW YOU FROM ABOVE.
REALLY.

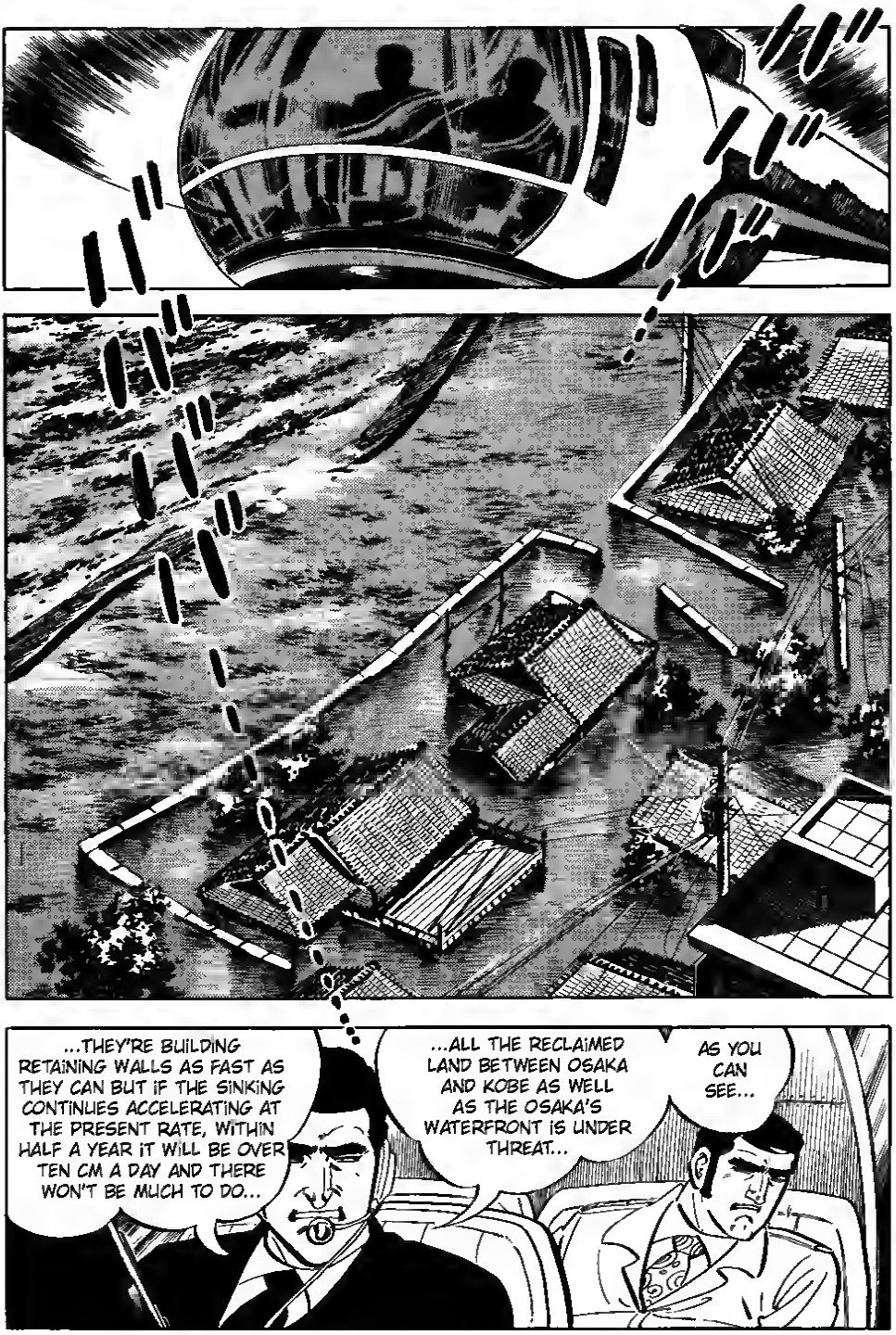
...REALLY?


TAKE CARE OF THINGS, PLEASE. WE'LL COME BY LATER.
TODAY IT'S ONLY FOR THE RELATIVES, THE REAL CEREMONY IS TOMORROW.
IT'S OKAY.

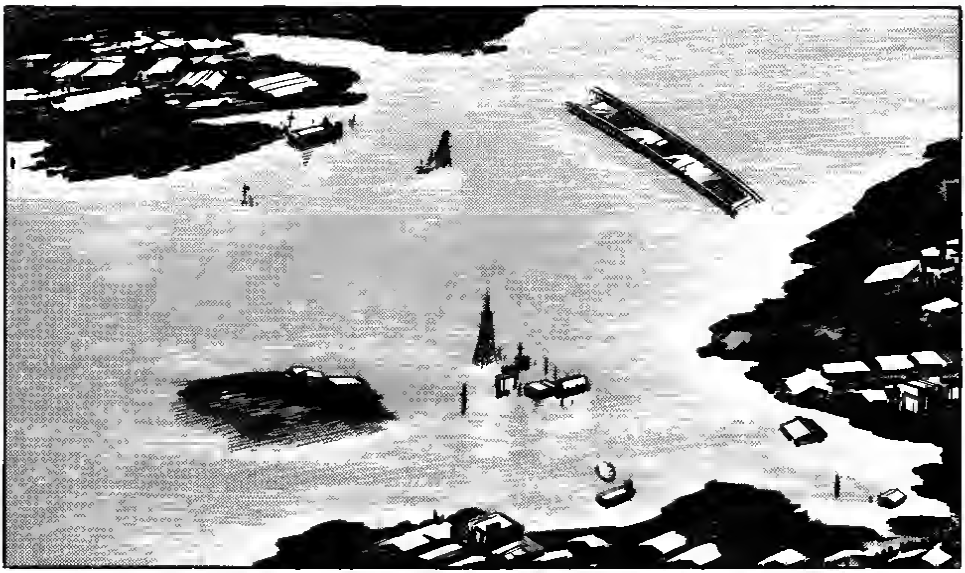
THE FUNERAL'S TODAY, DEAR... WHAT ABOUT THE MOURNING...?






AS YOU CAN SEE...
...ALL THE RECLAIMED LAND BETWEEN OSAKA AND KOBE AS WELL AS THE OSAKA'S WATERFRONT IS UNDER THREAT...
...THEY'RE BUILDING RETAINING WALLS AS FAST AS THEY CAN BUT IF THE SINKING CONTINUES ACCELERATING AT THE PRESENT RATE, WITHIN HALF A YEAR IT WILL BE OVER TEN CM A DAY AND THERE WON'T BE MUCH TO DO...

SCIENTISTS ARE SAYING IT WILL STOP EVENTUALLY BUT... WHEN IS THAT GOING TO BE?
THAT'S ONE METRE EVERY TEN DAYS, YOU SEE...



IT COULD STILL BE FINISHED BUT IT WOULD REQUIRE A LOT OF MONEY, AND WITH THE EAST STILL RECOVERING, IT'S JUST NOT REALISTIC RIGHT NOW.
...

THE PLANNED KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S EXTENSION SHOULD'VE BEEN ALL BUT COMPLETED BY NOW... INSTEAD, IT'S BEEN ABANDONED.

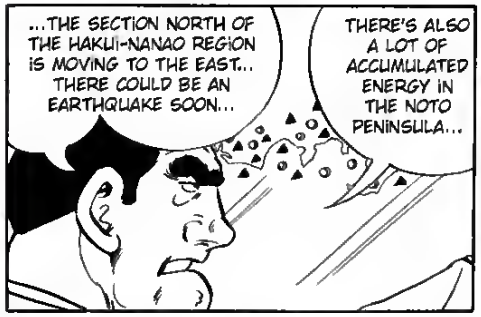
THERE ARE JOBS DEVELOPING THE OIL FIELDS IN MANITOBA... I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE FAMILY ALONG BUT MY WIFE IS RELUCTANT TO GO...
SINCE THERE'S NO NEED TO TAKE CARE OF MOTHER ANYMORE, I WAS THINKING OF MOVING TO CANADA...
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU CHANGE JOBS?
THEY'D LIKE ME TO GO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WHEN WOULD YOU BE LEAVING?
I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD GO FOR IT, BIG BROTHER!
WHAT A GREAT IDEA!
FORGET ABOUT LAST ARRANGEMENTS, YOU SHOULD MOVE TO CANADA AS SOON AS YOU CAN! TAKE YOUR FAMILY WITH YOU, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR WIFE SAYS!
THE SOONER THE BETTER!
...IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE A COUPLE OF MONTHS... I'D LIKE TO GO HAVE A LOOK NEXT WEEK.
I NEED TO MAKE SOME LAST ARRANGE-MENTS SO...
YOU KNOW, JAPAN...
AND WHY ARE YOU PUSHING ME TO GO?
EASY TO SAY... CHANGING JOBS AT FORTY IS NOT THAT SIMPLE...

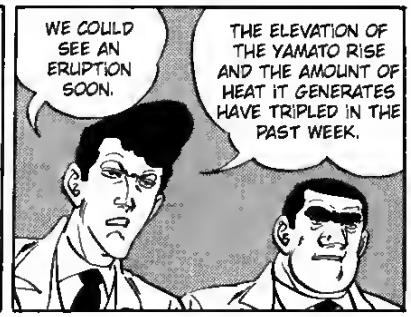
...
JAPAN IS SINKING!
JAPAN... ...JAPAN IS GOING UNDER!
GET AWAY AS FAST AS YOU CAN AND TAKE YOUR FAMILY WITH YOU!
GET OUT, BROTHER!
GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN!
...THE COUNTRY WILL SOON PLUNGE INTO CHAOS. SURVIVING WILL BE A MATTER OF LUCK...

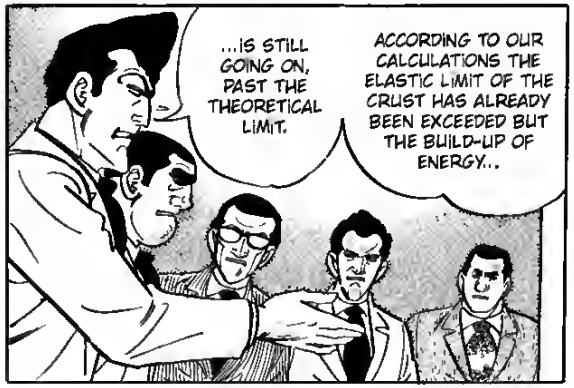
...BUT AS A MEMBER OF PLAN D'S TEAM... I CAN'T REVEAL THE SECRET TO ANYONE, NOT EVEN MY CLOSEST RELATIVES...
GET AWAY, BROTHER! JAPAN HAS NO FUTURE...

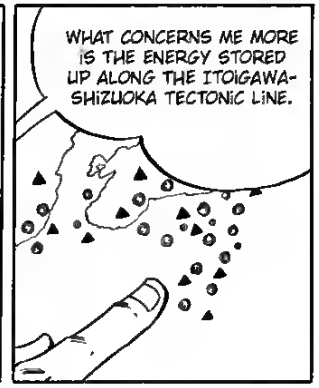
YEAH...
IS EVERYTHING OKAY, TOSHIO?
NO...
YOU WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE, RIGHT?
IN REMEMBRANCE OF MOTHER...
I'D BETTER GIVE IT TO YOU NOW, THEN.
LEAVE IT TO ME.
YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUNERAL...
YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY...
YOU REALLY SHOULD...
YOU SHOULD GO TO CANADA...

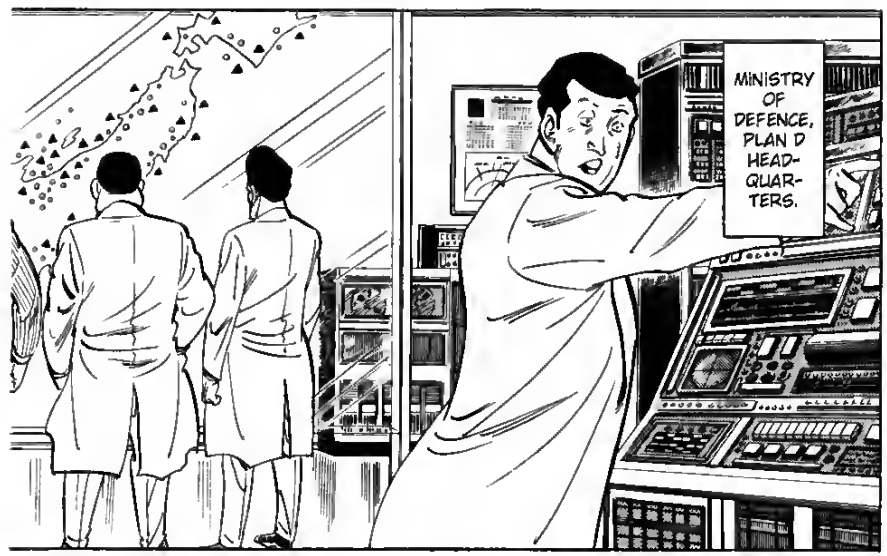
ISN'T IT TIME TO START A FAMILY?
SHOULDN'T YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN LIFE, INSTEAD?
...THE GROUND'S SHAKING EVERY DAY...
ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE...
DON'T WASTE ANY TIME! GET OUT NOW!
GET AWAY, BROTHER!
LET'S GO, IT'S NOT A BIG ONE...

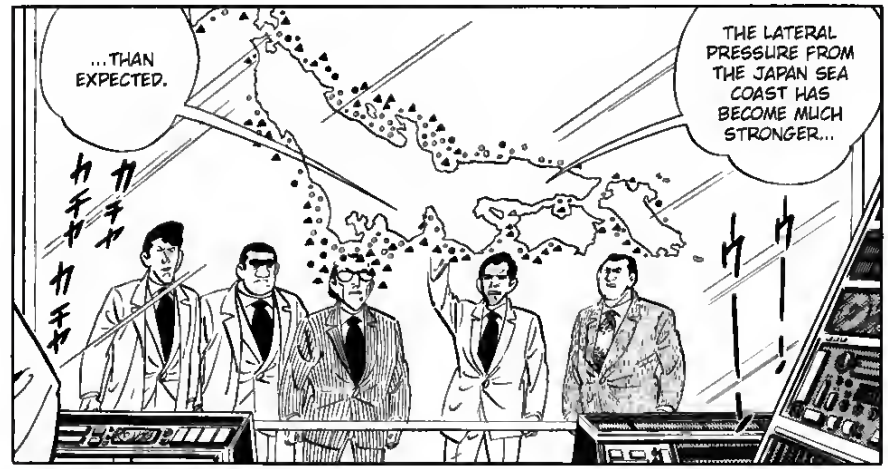

...THE SECTION NORTH OF THE HAKUI-NANAO REGION IS MOVING TO THE EAST... THERE COULD BE AN EARTHQUAKE SOON...
THERE'S ALSO A LOT OF ACCUMULATED ENERGY IN THE NOTO PENINSULA...


WE COULD SEE AN ERUPTION SOON.
THE ELEVATION OF THE YAMATO RISE AND THE AMOUNT OF HEAT IT GENERATES HAVE TRIPLED IN THE PAST WEEK.


...IS STILL GOING ON, PAST THE THEORETICAL LIMIT.
ACCORDING TO OUR CALCULATIONS THE ELASTIC LIMIT OF THE CRUST HAS ALREADY BEEN EXCEEDED BUT THE BUILD-UP OF ENERGY...


WHAT CONCERNS ME MORE IS THE ENERGY STORED UP ALONG THE ITOIGAWA-SHIZUOKA TECTONIC LINE.


MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, PLAN D HEAD-QUAR-TERS.


...THAN EXPECTED.
THE LATERAL PRESSURE FROM THE JAPAN SEA COAST HAS BECOME MUCH STRONGER...
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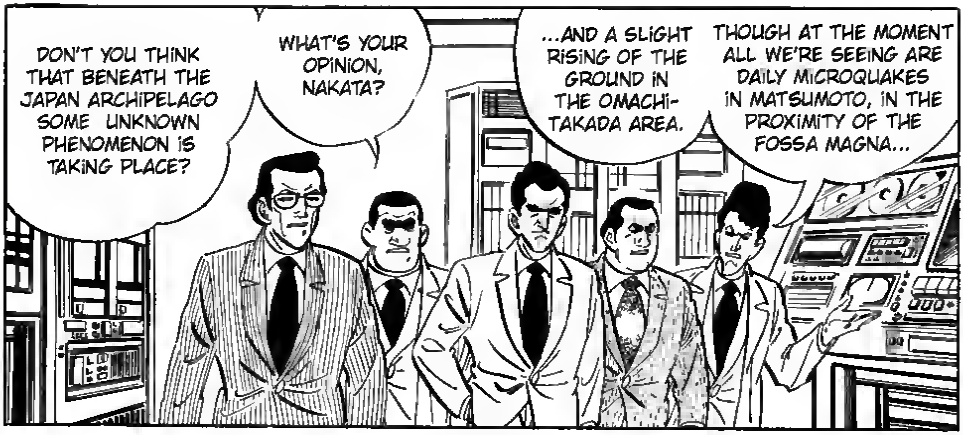
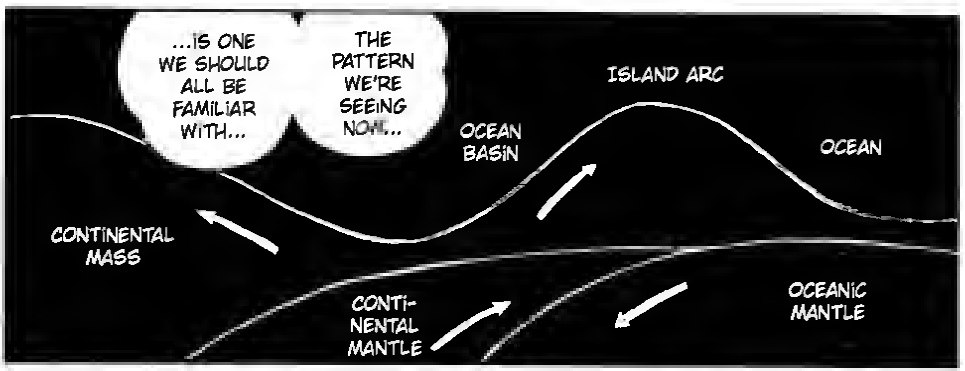
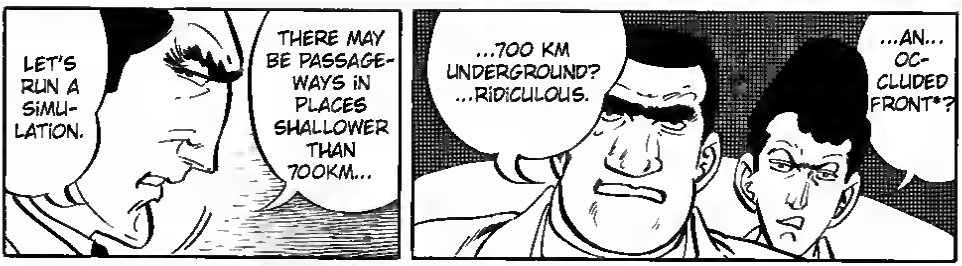
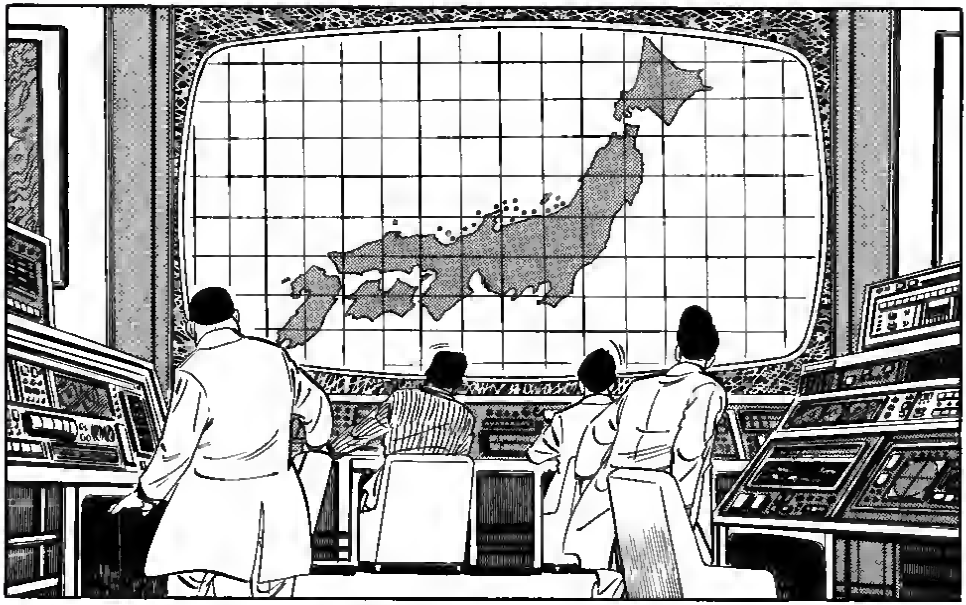
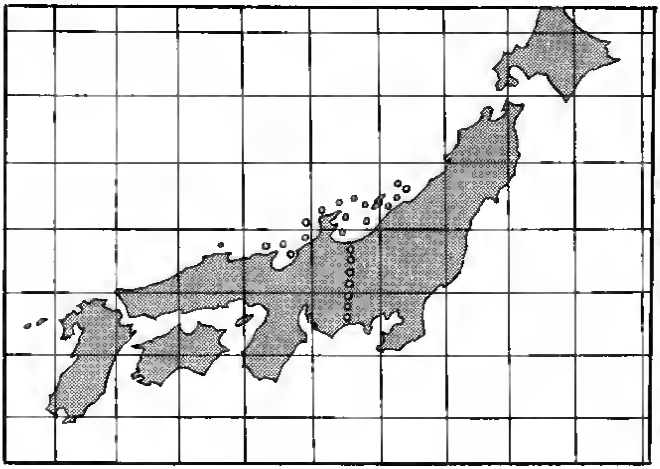

DON'T YOU THINK THAT BENEATH THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO SOME UNKNOWN PHENOMENON IS TAKING PLACE?
WHAT'S YOUR OPINION, NAKATA?
...AND A SLIGHT RISING OF THE GROUND IN THE OMACHI-TAKADA AREA.
THOUGH AT THE MOMENT ALL WE'RE SEEING ARE DAILY MICROQUAKES IN MATSUMOTO, IN THE PROXIMITY OF THE FOSSA MAGNA...

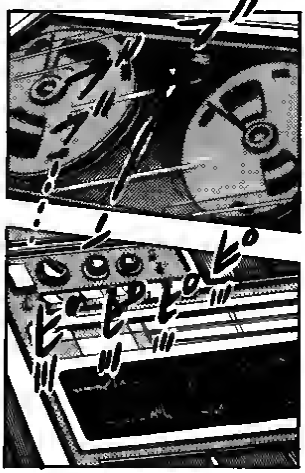



LET'S RUN A SIMU-LATION.
THERE MAY BE PASSAGE-WAYS IN PLACES SHALLOWER THAN 700KM...
...700 KM UNDERGROUND? ...RIDICULOUS.
...AN... OC-CLUDED FRONT*?

* OCCLUDED FRONT: IN METEOROLOGY A LINE OF DISCONTINUITY FORMED WHEN A COLD FRONT OVERTAKES A WARM FRONT FORCING UP THE WARM AIR.







SO... HAS JAPAN ALREADY SUNK?
COMPLETELY SUNK.
AND BEFORE IT SUNK... IT BROKE IN TWO.
ISN'T THAT A BIT TOO FAST?
COULD WE HAVE GOTTEN THE TIME SCALE WRONG?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
THE SCALE WAS THE USUAL ONE, 3.6X10⁴... 36,000 SECONDS. ONE SECOND IS THE EQUIVALENT TO ONE HUNDRED HOURS.
HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE TO REACH THIS POINT?
120.32 SECONDS.
...OR 11,232 HOURS...
11,200 HOURS... IN OTHER WORDS...
...ONE YEAR AND THREE MONTHS...
LET'S RUN IT ONE MORE TIME.
THIS TIME MAKE ONE SECOND EQUIVALENT TO 25 HOURS.
WHAT'S THAT?
I HADN'T NOTICED IT BEFORE...
THE LIGHTS INDICATE THE MASS DEFICIENCY, AN INTEGRAL CALCULUS WITH THE NEGATIVE GRAVITY ANOMALY.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT GOES ON IN THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH ...
I CAN'T TELL YOU...
BUT... HOW? HOW CAN ENERGY MOVE THAT FAST ALL THE WAY TO THE JAPAN SEA COAST... 200 KM BENEATH THE GROUND?
LOOK! ...BELOW THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO!
RIGHT THERE!
IT'S THEORETICALLY IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S OVER THE ELASTIC LIMIT OF THE CRUST ...!
BUT WHY... IS THERE ENERGY STORED UP THAT DEEP DOWN?
...BUT IT SEEMS THE COMPUTER HAS FOUND A PATTERN IN THE DATA AND HAS BUILT A COMPATIBLE MODEL.
THE ARCHIPELAGO IS BREAKING UP...
IT'S STARTED...

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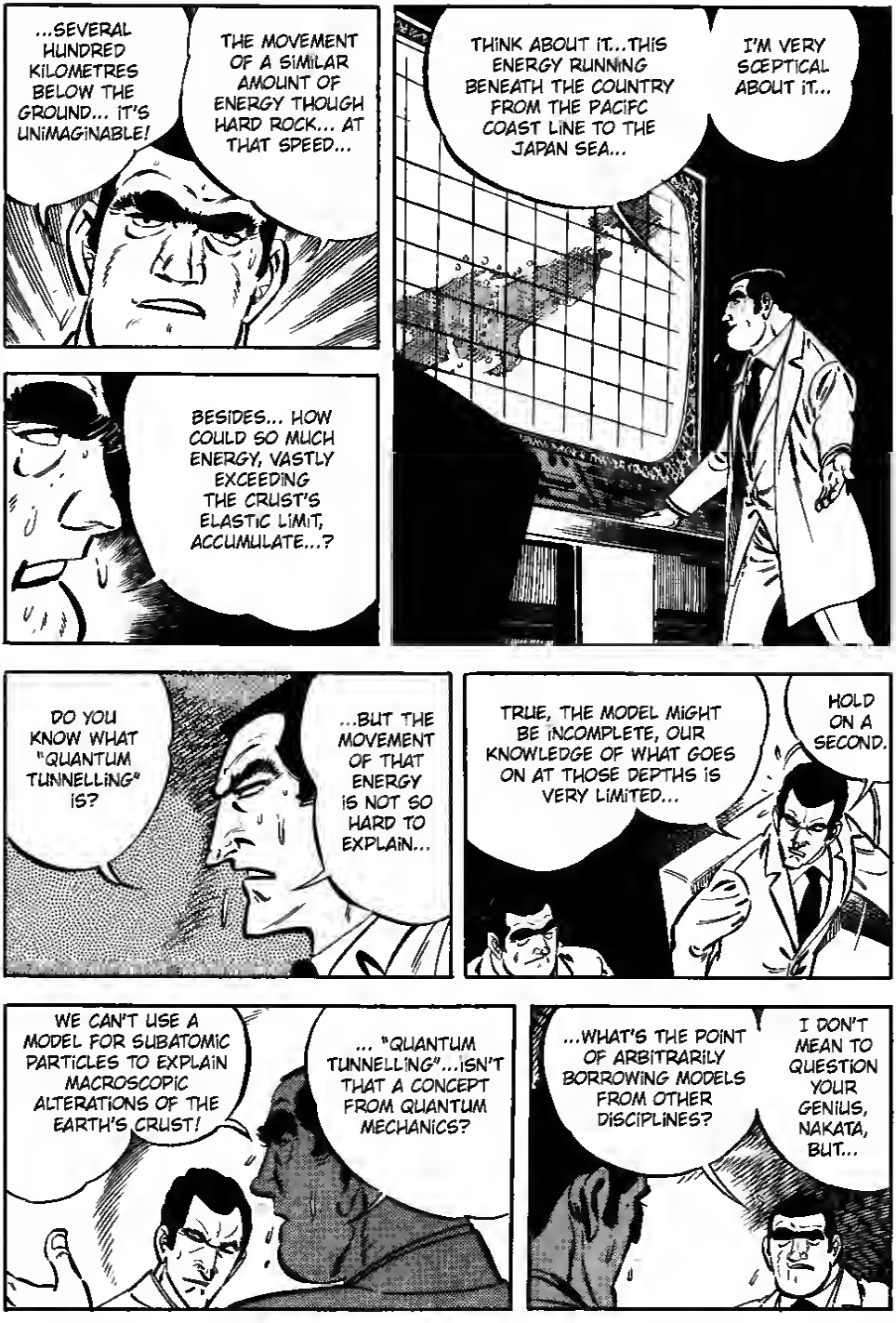
...HOW CAN A CHANGE OF SUCH PROPORTIONS... TAKE PLACE IN ONE MONTH?

IN DAYS... 32 DAYS...

...62 SECOND FROM THE SECOND START...

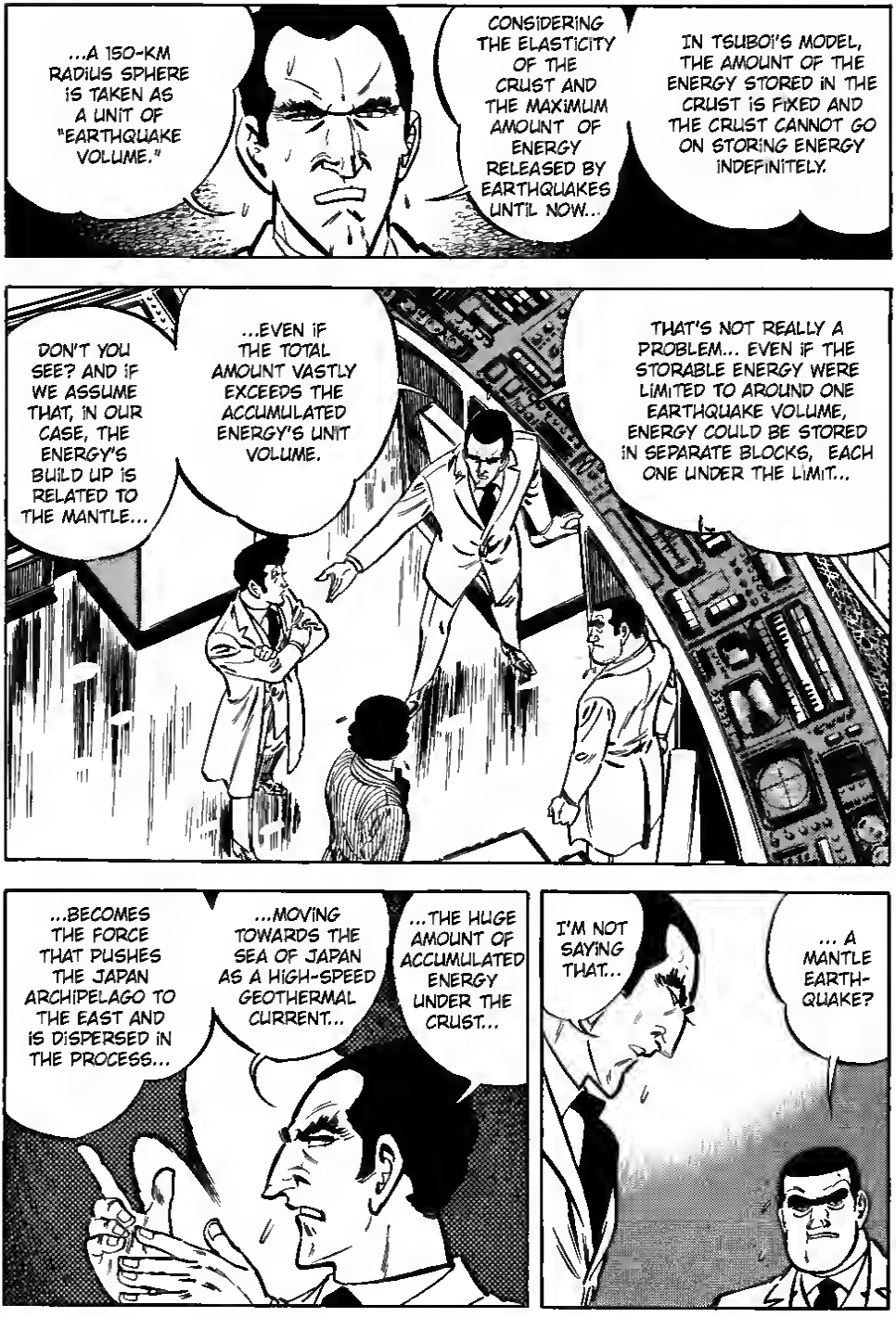
WHAT'S THE TIME?

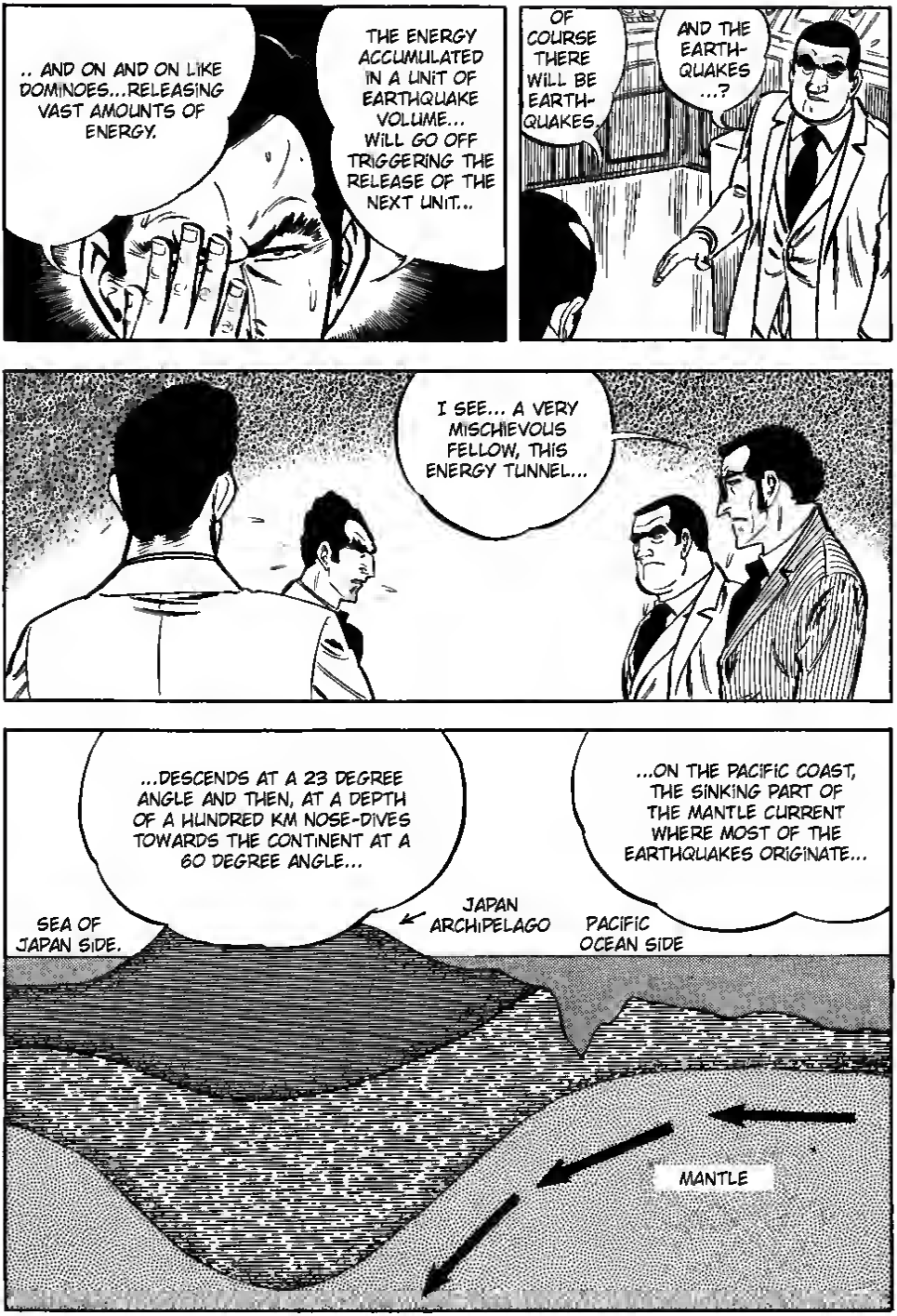
EASTERN JAPAN MOVES EAST-SOUTHEAST AT AN ANGLE OF 13 DEGREES TO THE GEODESIC LINE, WHILE ITS WESTERN PART SLIDES SOUTH AT ANGLE OF 6 DEGREES...
THE VERTICAL MOVEMENT IS MINUS 2KM...
THE HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT IS 35KM AT THE MOST.
WHAT ABOUT THE MOVEMENT OF THE ARCHIPELAGO ...?
THERE WILL BE LAND-SLIDES AND ERUP-TIONS...
EVEN SO... WHO COULD LIVE THERE?
...IN THAT CASE THE MOUNTAINS WILL BE SPARED...
...VER-TICAL MOVE-MENT MINUS 2KM ...?
...WHILE ITS SOUTHERN PART SLIDES TO THE EAST
AND KYUSHU AS A WHOLE ROTATES TO THE LEFT..
THAT'S RIGHT, EVEN AFTER THE MAIN SHIFT IS OVER, THE SINKING AND THE LATERAL MOVEMENT WILL CONTINUE AT A RATE OF SEVERAL CENTIMETRES A DAY.
BUT... IS THIS MODEL REALLY CORRECT?
...IT WILL KEEP ON SINKING.
BESIDES... IT WON'T STOP THERE...

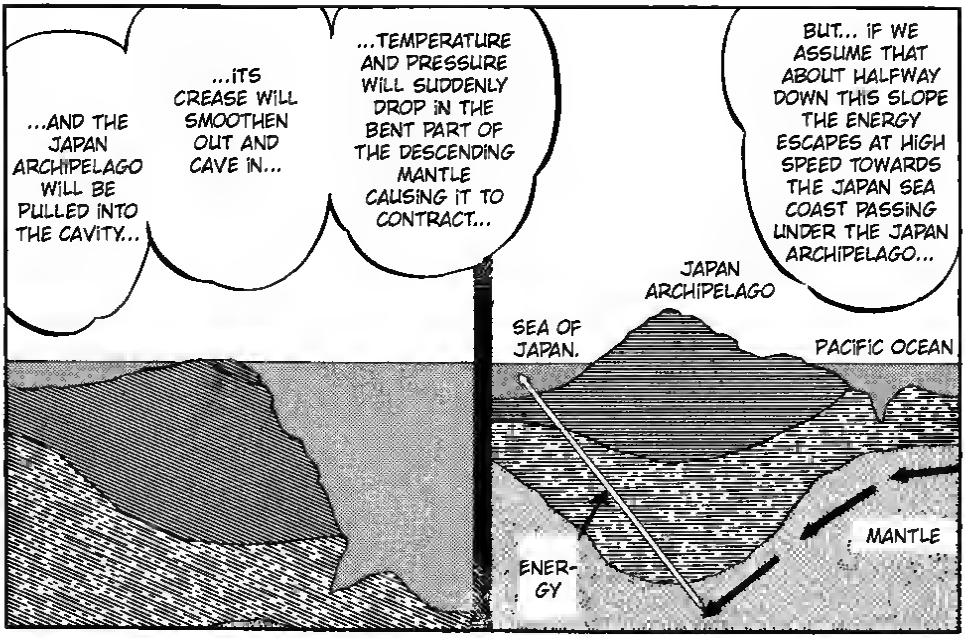

...SEVERAL HUNDRED KILOMETRES BELOW THE GROUND... IT'S UNIMAGINABLE!
THE MOVEMENT OF A SIMILAR AMOUNT OF ENERGY THOUGH HARD ROCK... AT THAT SPEED...
THINK ABOUT IT...THIS ENERGY RUNNING BENEATH THE COUNTRY FROM THE PACIFC COAST LINE TO THE JAPAN SEA...
I'M VERY SCEPTICAL ABOUT IT...
BESIDES... HOW COULD SO MUCH ENERGY, VASTLY EXCEEDING THE CRUST'S ELASTIC LIMIT, ACCUMULATE...?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT "QUANTUM TUNNELLING" IS?
...BUT THE MOVEMENT OF THAT ENERGY IS NOT SO HARD TO EXPLAIN...
TRUE, THE MODEL MIGHT BE INCOMPLETE, OUR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT GOES ON AT THOSE DEPTHS IS VERY LIMITED...
HOLD ON A SECOND.
WE CAN'T USE A MODEL FOR SUBATOMIC PARTICLES TO EXPLAIN MACROSCOPIC ALTERATIONS OF THE EARTH'S CRUST!
... "QUANTUM TUNNELLING"...ISN'T THAT A CONCEPT FROM QUANTUM MECHANICS?
...WHAT'S THE POINT OF ARBITRARILY BORROWING MODELS FROM OTHER DISCIPLINES?
I DON'T MEAN TO QUESTION YOUR GENIUS, NAKATA, BUT...

THERE ARE MODELS WHICH POSTULATE A PHENOMENON SIMILAR TO QUANTUM TUNNELLING TAKING PLACE EVEN IN HIGH-DENSITY SOLIDS...
ALL I'M SAYING IS... IN THE CASE OF THE PASSAGE OF ENERGY THROUGH A HIGH-DENSITY SOLID LIKE ROCK, WE SHOULDN'T RESTRICT OURSELVES TO THINKING ONLY IN TERMS OF THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY OR ELASTIC VIBRATIONS.
I'M NOT SAYING WE SHOULD APPLY IT WILLY NILLY...
SUCH AS...?
INSIDE GLACIERS, HOLES SOMETIMES DEVELOP WITHIN THE ICE AT TEMPERATURES CLOSE TO FREEZING POINT...
GLACIERS.
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT... ICE?
...THE MOVEMENT OF ENERGY THAT OCCURS IN SOLID-LIQUID TWO-PHASE FLOW SITUATIONS.
SUCH TUBULAR CONDUITS, FOUND IN ALL GLACIERS, CAN BE QUITE LONG AND WATER MOVES THROUGH THEM AT FAIRLY HIGH SPEED.
...AT THE SLIGHTEST DECREASE IN TEMPERATURE IT WILL REVERT IMMEDIATELY TO ICE AND JAM THESE CONDUITS...
AND SINCE THE WATER CONTAINS ICE, IT WILL JAM...
...SO THAT WATER CAN FLOW THROUGH THE ICE.
...TUBULAR CONDUITS FORMED WHEN THE PRESSURE TRIGGERS A CHANGE OF STATE IN THE ICE FROM SOLID TO LIQUID...

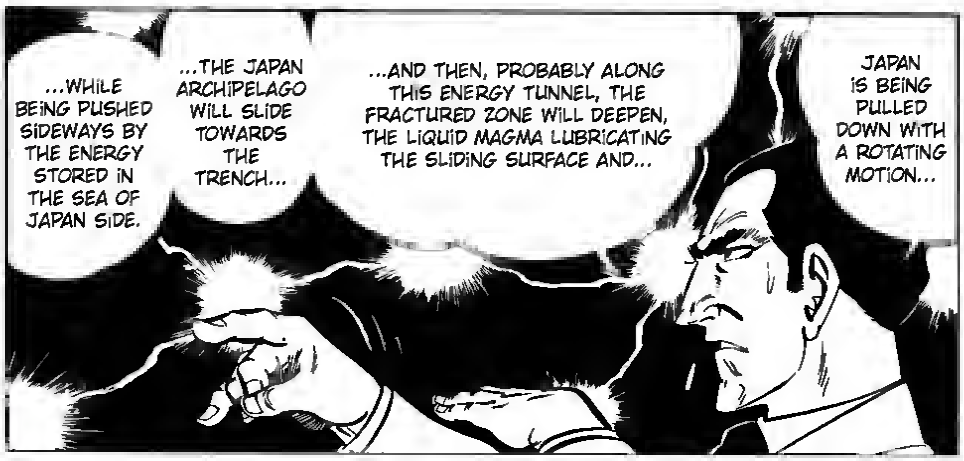
...IT'S ONLY A THEORETICAL MODEL!
THERE ISN'T ANY, OF COURSE.
...WHERE'S THE EVIDENCE ?
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THE SAME PROCESS IS AT WORK IN THE BEDROCK UNDER THE JAPAN ARCHIPEL-AGO?
BUT HOW COULD LIQUID LAVA BORE SUCH A PERFECT TUNNELS?
IT'S WIDELY BELIEVED THAT THE VENTS IN MT. FUJI WERE CREATED BY THE MOLTEN LAVA PASSING THROUGH IT...
BUT THINK... HOW ELSE COULD THE MAGMA CREATE THE TUNNELS IN THE ROCK THROUGH WHICH IT GUSHES OUT?
...NO, IT WOULDN'T NECESSARILY CONTRADICT PROFESSOR TADAO TSUBOI'S FAMOUS "EARTHQUAKE VOLUME MODEL"...
...DUE TO THE EXTREMELY HIGH TEMPERATURES AND PRESSURE, A TUNNEL FORMS IN THE BEDROCK, MORE LIKE A LIQUID CURRENT REALLY, THROUGH WHICH HEAT CAN FLOW AT HIGH SPEED... ASSUMING IT WERE TRUE, WOULDN'T THE ENERGY THAT MOVES PAST THE SEA OF JAPAN COAST AND IS STORED THERE-
...I SEE. WELL... IT'S A PLAUSIBLE MODEL...


...A 150-KM RADIUS SPHERE IS TAKEN AS A UNIT OF "EARTHQUAKE VOLUME."
CONSIDERING THE ELASTICITY OF THE CRUST AND THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ENERGY RELEASED BY EARTHQUAKES UNTIL NOW...
IN TSUBOI'S MODEL, THE AMOUNT OF THE ENERGY STORED IN THE CRUST IS FIXED AND THE CRUST CANNOT GO ON STORING ENERGY INDEFINITELY.
DON'T YOU SEE? AND IF WE ASSUME THAT, IN OUR CASE, THE ENERGY'S BUILD UP IS RELATED TO THE MANTLE...
...EVEN IF THE TOTAL AMOUNT VASTLY EXCEEDS THE ACCUMULATED ENERGY'S UNIT VOLUME.
THAT'S NOT REALLY A PROBLEM... EVEN IF THE STORABLE ENERGY WERE LIMITED TO AROUND ONE EARTHQUAKE VOLUME, ENERGY COULD BE STORED IN SEPARATE BLOCKS, EACH ONE UNDER THE LIMIT...
...BECOMES THE FORCE THAT PUSHES THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO TO THE EAST AND IS DISPERSED IN THE PROCESS...
...MOVING TOWARDS THE SEA OF JAPAN AS A HIGH-SPEED GEOTHERMAL CURRENT...
...THE HUGE AMOUNT OF ACCUMULATED ENERGY UNDER THE CRUST...
I'M NOT SAYING THAT...
... A MANTLE EARTH-QUAKE?

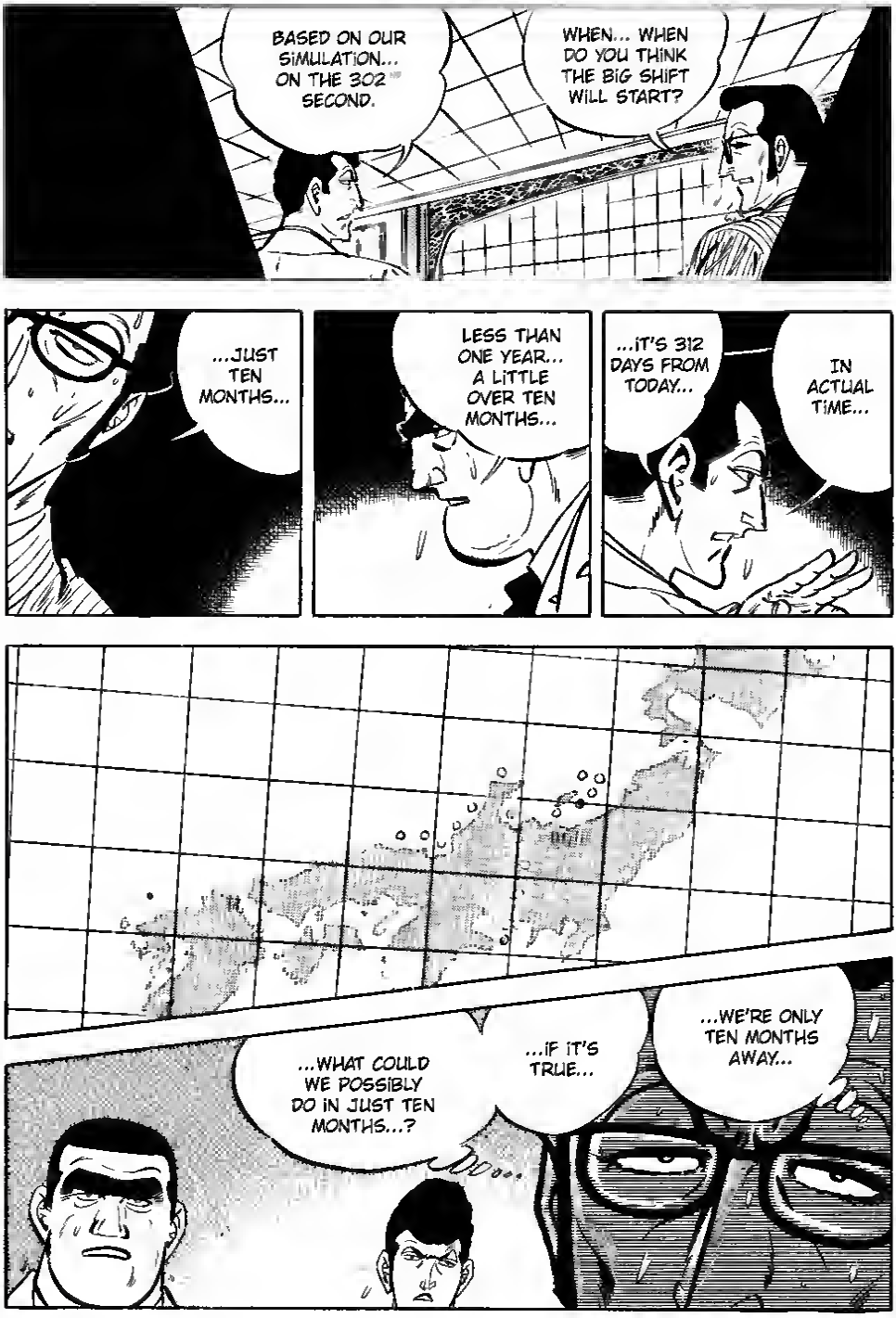

.. AND ON AND ON LIKE DOMINOES...RELEASING VAST AMOUNTS OF ENERGY.
THE ENERGY ACCUMULATED IN A UNIT OF EARTHQUAKE VOLUME... WILL GO OFF TRIGGERING THE RELEASE OF THE NEXT UNIT...
OF COURSE THERE WILL BE EARTH-QUAKES.
AND THE EARTH-QUAKES ...?
I SEE... A VERY MISCHIEVOUS FELLOW, THIS ENERGY TUNNEL...
...DESCENDS AT A 23 DEGREE ANGLE AND THEN, AT A DEPTH OF A HUNDRED KM NOSE-DIVES TOWARDS THE CONTINENT AT A 60 DEGREE ANGLE...
...ON THE PACIFIC COAST, THE SINKING PART OF THE MANTLE CURRENT WHERE MOST OF THE EARTHQUAKES ORIGINATE...
SEA OF JAPAN SIDE.
JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO
PACIFIC OCEAN SIDE
MANTLE


...AND THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO WILL BE PULLED INTO THE CAVITY...
...ITS CREASE WILL SMOOTHEN OUT AND CAVE IN...
...TEMPERATURE AND PRESSURE WILL SUDDENLY DROP IN THE BENT PART OF THE DESCENDING MANTLE CAUSING IT TO CONTRACT...
BUT... IF WE ASSUME THAT ABOUT HALFWAY DOWN THIS SLOPE THE ENERGY ESCAPES AT HIGH SPEED TOWARDS THE JAPAN SEA COAST PASSING UNDER THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO...
JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO
SEA OF JAPAN.
PACIFIC OCEAN
MANTLE
ENER-GY

UNTIL NOW WE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE SEABED IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE JAPAN TRENCH WOULDN'T RISE BUT IF WE REFER TO THIS MODEL IT BECOMES CLEAR.


...WHILE BEING PUSHED SIDEWAYS BY THE ENERGY STORED IN THE SEA OF JAPAN SIDE.
...THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO WILL SLIDE TOWARDS THE TRENCH...
...AND THEN, PROBABLY ALONG THIS ENERGY TUNNEL, THE FRACTURED ZONE WILL DEEPEN, THE LIQUID MAGMA LUBRICATING THE SLIDING SURFACE AND...
JAPAN IS BEING PULLED DOWN WITH A ROTATING MOTION...

...WOULD BE OFFSET ALMOST PERFECTLY BY THE DOWNWARD DIAGONAL MOVEMENT OF THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO AND NO VIOLENT CHANGES WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE CRUST...
IF THAT WERE THE CASE, THE POTENTIAL ENERGY, NEGATIVE ON THE PACIFIC COAST AND POSITIVE ON THE SEA OF JAPAN COASTLINE...
IT SOUNDS TOO... TIDY.
...IT ALL SOUNDS TOO SMOOTH TO ME.
...BUT THE JAPANESE ARCHIPELAGO WILL KEEP ON SLIDING WITH NO CATACLYSMIC RELEASES OF ENERGY...
...SURE, EARTHQUAKES WILL STILL ROCK JAPAN...
... THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO IS SINKING!
BOTTOM LINE IS...
...NO BUILDING WILL BE LEFT STANDING!
AND REMEMBER THAT THE TOTAL ENERGY RELEASED AS THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO CONTRACTS WILL BE CONSIDERABLE...
NATURE'S MOVEMENTS ARE VERY SMOOTH... MOST OF THE TIME.


BASED ON OUR SIMULATION... ON THE 302ND SECOND.
WHEN... WHEN DO YOU THINK THE BIG SHIFT WILL START?
...JUST TEN MONTHS...
LESS THAN ONE YEAR... A LITTLE OVER TEN MONTHS...
...IT'S 312 DAYS FROM TODAY...
IN ACTUAL TIME...
...WHAT COULD WE POSSIBLY DO IN JUST TEN MONTHS...?
...IF IT'S TRUE...
...WE'RE ONLY TEN MONTHS AWAY...

NO. THE PRIME MINISTER.
ARE YOU WAKING UP THE DIRECTOR?
...WE MUST PREPARE FOR THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO!
IT'S NOT PREMATURE. THERE'S NO TIME FOR FURTHER TESTING...
IT'S STILL PREMATURE... WE NEED TO TEST THE MODEL FURTHER...
WHAT ...?!

...WAS THAT THE CAUSE OF THE LAST EARTHQUAKE, I WONDER?
I HEARD MT. FUJI HAS ERUPTED AGAIN...

WE WANT JOBS!
GIVE US HOUSES!!

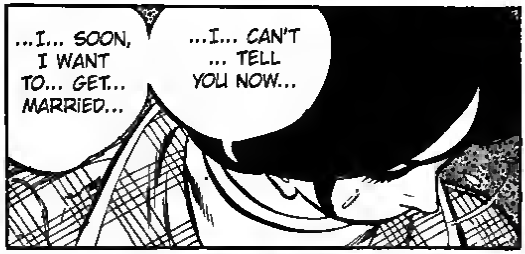
...AND YOU'LL GET YOUR PROMOTION TO SECTION MANAGER AT LAST.
...REPAIR WORK ON OUR NEW OFFICE BUILDING WILL BE DONE BY THE SUMMER...
...MY NEW HOUSE WILL BE READY IN MAY.
...I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO TAKE OUT A LOAN...
...I WANT TO SPECIALIZE IN NATURAL SCIENCES...
...IF I CAN MAKE INTO UNIVERSITY...
...LOOKS LIKE THE TIGERS WILL BEAT THE GIANTS THIS YEAR...
...WE'RE SAVING IN ORDER TO GET MARRIED... IF NOT IN AUTUMN, DEFINITELY NEXT SPRING...

GET AWAY, EVERYBODY!
...AND BY NEXT YEAR... THERE WON'T BE ANYBODY LEFT IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY...
... IN THE SUMMER... OR IN AUTUMN...
...HARD TO SAY WHO'LL BE AROUND...
SPRING IS ALMOST ON US...
QUICK! GET OUT AS FAST AS YOU CAN!
TOMORROW WON'T BE LIKE YOU IMAGINE IT!
GET OUT QUICK! SAVE YOUR LIVES!
GET AWAY, PEOPLE... LEAVE...

...IS EVERYONE IN YOUR FAMILY OKAY?
YES...
...YOU LOOK GOOD TOO.
I CAME HERE TODAY TO DO SOME SHOPPING...
...I'M HAPPY I RAN INTO YOU...
HOW IS TORU DOING?
WON'T YOU COME TO OUR HOUSE THIS EVENING?
...HE REALLY WANTS TO MEET YOU.
YOU SEE...
...I'M WORKING ON SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT AT THE MOMENT... I'M VERY BUSY...
ACTUALLY, THERE'S SOMETHING I'D... LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT...

...
...WHAT COULD THAT BE?
...TO ME?

REIKO...!
...I'LL SEE YOU... SOME OTHER TIME...


...I... SOON, I WANT TO... GET... MARRIED...
...I... CAN'T ... TELL YOU NOW...

RESIDENCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. 5 A.M.
ALERTED BY THE PLAN D TEAM, THE PRIME MINISTER, IN SPITE OF THE EARLY HOUR, CONVENED THE MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET TO HIS RESIDENCE FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING.

...DOES ANYONE OBJECT TO AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT IN TWO WEEKS, MAYBE EARLIER, DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION?
LET ME ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME...
...FROM PLUSMINUS TWO YEARS TO... TEN MORE MONTHS ...
...BUT STILL...
FOREIGN MINISTER.
THE FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES... MUST HAVE THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR THIS CALAMITY... TWO WEEKS WILL NOT BE ENOUGH...
COULDN'T WE PUT IT OFF FOR ANOTHER MONTH? ...AT LEAST THREE WEEKS?
MINISTER OF TRADE.
...THE TIME AT OUR DISPOSAL HAS SUDDENLY HALVED...
A MOST UNWELCOME DEVELOPMENT ...
FINANCE MINISTER.
...ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE GREATER THE RISK THE ANNOUNCEMENT MAY COME FROM ABROAD...
CONFUSION IS UNAVOIDABLE, NO MATTER WHAT...
IF, AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT, CHAOS AND CONFUSION SHOULD BREAK OUT BEFORE OUR COMPANIES ARE READY
CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY.
DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE

AT THE MOMENT, WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OTHER COUNTRIES REALLY KNOW BUT...
WE'VE BEEN INFORMED THAT IT'S A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY.
YOU MEAN... A FOREIGN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION COULD BEAT US TO IT?
...ABROAD ...?
...THE HEADS OF STATE OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES KNOW ALL ABOUT IT, WHILE OFFICIALLY PRETENDING NOT TO.
BESIDES, WE'VE HAD TO SEND ENVOYS TO GOVERNMENTS THE WORLD OVER TO SOUND THEM OUT ABOUT THE RELOCATION OF OUR PEOPLE...
... RECENTLY THERE'S BEEN A STEEP INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN SATELLITES, SURVEY PLANES AND SHIPS IN AND AROUND THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO...
CHIEF CABINET DIRECTOR.
...OTHERWISE WE'LL LOSE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. AND CONFUSION ONLY LEADS TO MORE CONFU-SION...
WE SHOULD CONCEAL EVERYTHING UNTIL THE WORLD FINDS OUT, AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY SECOND TO PREPARE OURSELVES...
...AND THE JOINT STAFF COUNCIL SHARES MY OPINION.
I DO BELIEVE WE SHOULD KEEP IT SECRET UNTIL THE VERY END...

THAT ALWAYS HAPPENS IN THE AFTERMATH OF A NATURAL DISASTER, OF COURSE, BUT... AFTER A BRIEF LULL OVER NEW YEAR, THE SELLING RESUMED AT A BRISKER PACE WHEN OUR ENVOYS CAME BACK FROM THEIR MISSIONS.
...WE'VE ALREADY SEEN SIGNS THAT INTERNATIONAL SPECULATORS ARE DROPPING THE YEN AND INVESTING IN FOREIGN BONDS.
IN MY OPINION TWO WEEKS ARE JUST FINE.
...THE TWO WEEK LIMIT IS ALL WE NEED.
...AND THAT'S WHY I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE ...
WE HAVE TO ASSUME THAT WORD LEAKED OUT WHEN WE SENT OUR DIPLOMATS ABROAD...
IN EUROPE, THE PRODUCTION OF GOODS FOR THE JAPANESE MARKET HAS ALSO COME TO A TEMPORARY STOP.. IN SOME COUNTRIES.
... OF THE EXTENT OF THE PREDICTED CHANGE WITHIN ONE OR TWO WEEKS.
INTER-NATIONAL TREATIES WOULD REQUIRE US TO NOTIFY THEM...
...CONSIDERING THEY, KOREA IN PARTICULAR, COULD SUFFER SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE.
WE PROBABLY SHOULD INFORM FIRST KOREA, TAIWAN AND MAINLAND CHINA...

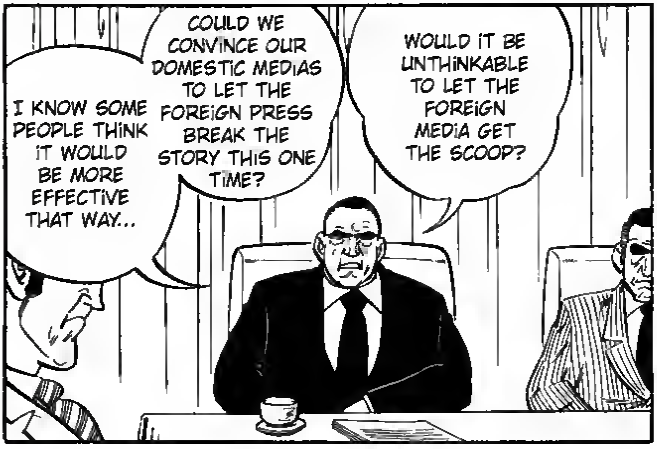
THANKS TO THE HELP FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE, TALKS WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES, ARE NEARING CONCLUSION BUT... THE BIGGEST DIFFICULTIES COME FROM AUSTRALIA AND MAINLAND CHINA.
THEY ESTIMATE IN THREE WEEKS.
WHEN WILL THE UN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CONVENE?
AND EVEN IF WE SECURE A CONSENSUS IN THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL, SOMEONE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL SURELY POINT OUT THAT THIS WAY OF DOING THINGS GOES AGAINST THE TRUSTEESHIP'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES.
...WE ALSO EXPECT INDONESIA TO RAISE SOME OBJECTIONS.
...OVER TEN MILLION JAPANESE MARCHING INTO NORTHEASTERN NEW GUINEA, WHERE ONLY A FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE LIVE...!
YES, I CAN DEFINITELY SEE THAT...
BUT SOMEONE COULD SEE THE MOVEMENT OF OUR PEOPLE AS AN INVASION... A DE FACTO OCCUPATION.
AFTER ALL, THE COUNCIL WAS ESTABLISHED TO ENSURE THAT TRUST TERRITORIES WOULD ATTAIN SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE

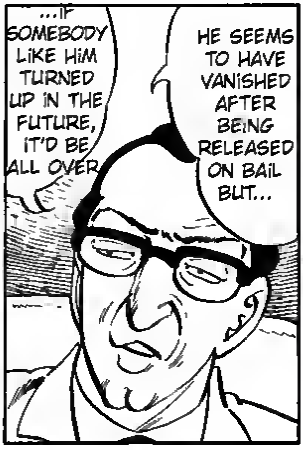
IT'S A VERY DELICATE SUBJECT WITH THEM... WE SHOULD TREAD VERY CAREFULLY.
NOT REALLY...THEY STILL VIEW US AS AN IMPERIALIST POWER.
...I BET YOU'D BE HAPPY TO GO BACK TO THE BISMARCK ISLANDS OR TO NEW BRITAIN...
SAY, TADA, WERE YOU NOT IN RABAUL DURING THE WAR...?
I WANT YOU TO BE VERY CIRCUMSPECT WITH ALL REPORTERS.
...I WILL ASSUME THAT NOBODY OBJECTS TO A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN TWO WEEKS, THEN.
VERY WELL...
...PUBLIC OPINION AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT.
... AND TO ASK THEM FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN ENFORCING A TWO-WEEK MEDIA BLACKOUT AND HELPING US HANDLE...
NEXT, THE PRIME MINISTER AND I ARE GOING TO MEET THE HEADS OF ALL MEDIA GROUPS TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION.

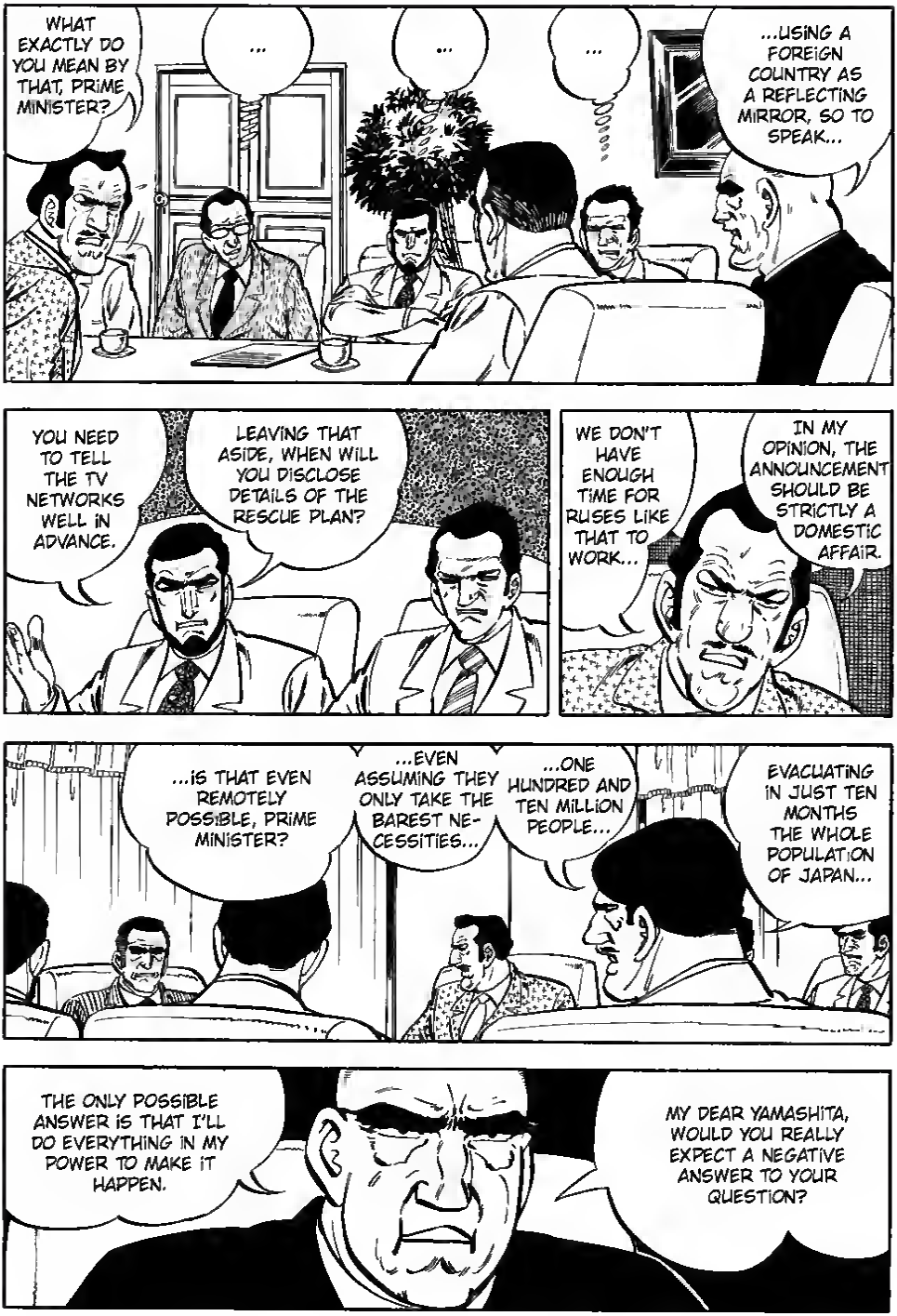
A SPECIAL SUITE IN TOKYO'S H----- HOTEL, 7 A.M.
...AND NOW I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR OPINIONS.
A NATION-WIDE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN IS OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY BUT...
...THE REAL PROBLEM WILL BE INTER-NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION.
WHAT ABOUT HAVING A WORD WITH A FEW FAMOUS FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, SUCH AS GRAHAM FROM THE NEW YORK TIMES OR KOURSKI FROM LE MONDE...?
TWO WEEKS IS JUST NOT ENOUGH TIME...

...SOON ONE OF THEM IS BOUND TO GET WIND OF SOMETHING. EVEN IF WE AGREE TO COOPERATE, THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN WORD WILL LEAK OUT.
SINCE THE GREAT TOKYO EARTHQUAKE, CORRESPONDENTS FROM ALL MAJOR FOREIGN NEWSPAPER AND TV COMPANIES HAVE BEEN STATIONED IN JAPAN... THEIR NUMBER KEEPS GROWING...

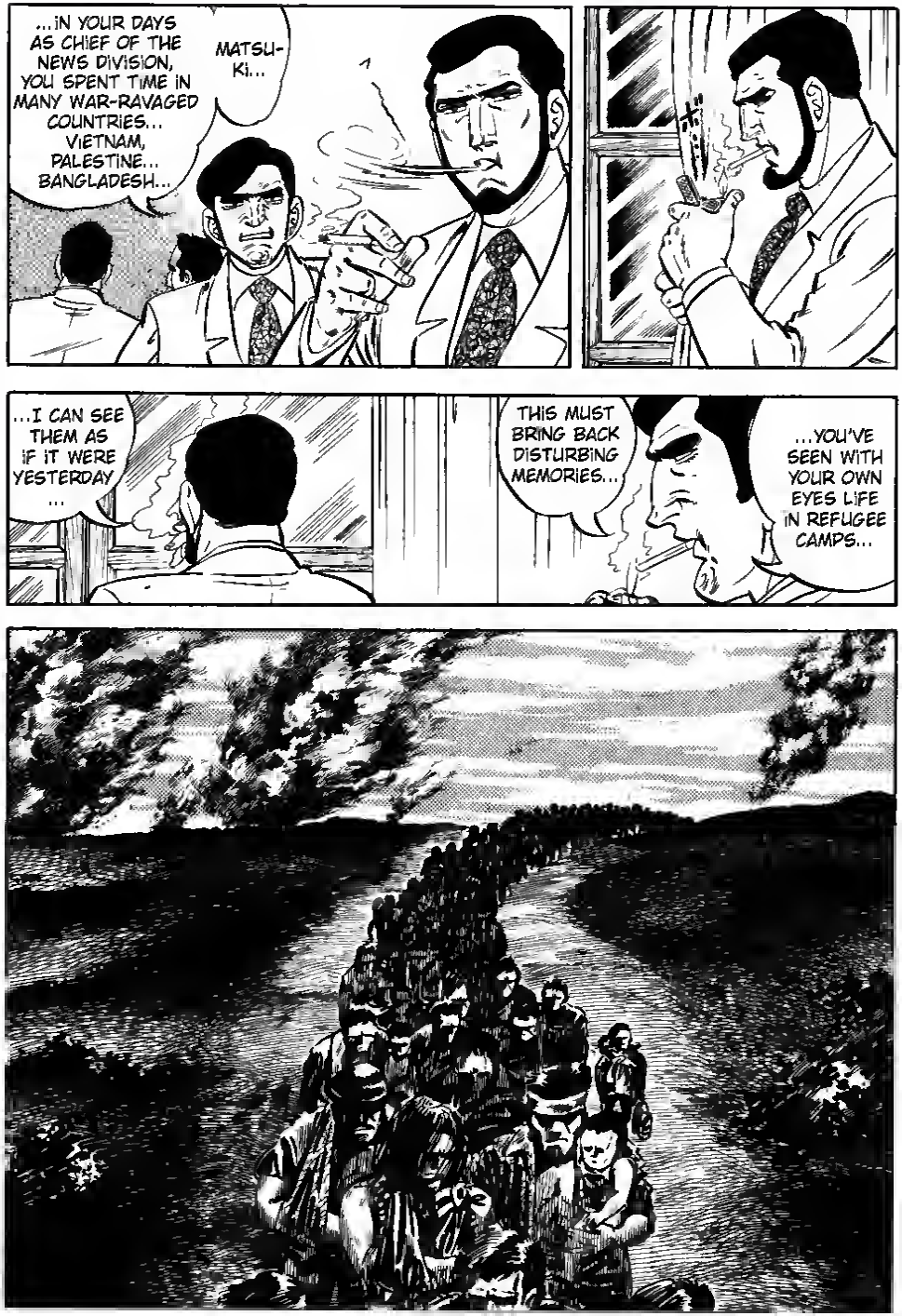
BUT WASN'T THAT GUY... TADORO... WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT?
I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT SEVERAL FOREIGN REPORTERS WERE DESPERATELY TRYING TO INTERVIEW HIM.
I ALMOST HAD A HEART ATTACK WHEN ONE OF THE POPULAR MAGAZINES PRINTED THE WORDS OF THAT DRUNKEN SCIENTIST...

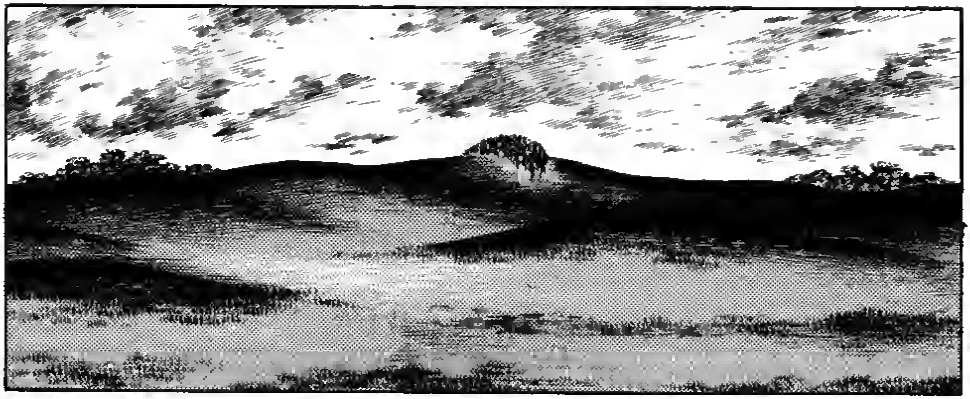

I KNOW SOME PEOPLE THINK IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE THAT WAY...
COULD WE CONVINCE OUR DOMESTIC MEDIAS TO LET THE FOREIGN PRESS BREAK THE STORY THIS ONE TIME?
WOULD IT BE UNTHINKABLE TO LET THE FOREIGN MEDIA GET THE SCOOP?


...IF SOMEBODY LIKE HIM TURNED UP IN THE FUTURE, IT'D BE ALL OVER.
HE SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED AFTER BEING RELEASED ON BAIL BUT...


WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, PRIME MINISTER?
...
...
...
...USING A FOREIGN COUNTRY AS A REFLECTING MIRROR, SO TO SPEAK...
YOU NEED TO TELL THE TV NETWORKS WELL IN ADVANCE.
LEAVING THAT ASIDE, WHEN WILL YOU DISCLOSE DETAILS OF THE RESCUE PLAN?
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR RUSES LIKE THAT TO WORK...
IN MY OPINION, THE ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE STRICTLY A DOMESTIC AFFAIR.
...IS THAT EVEN REMOTELY POSSIBLE, PRIME MINISTER?
...EVEN ASSUMING THEY ONLY TAKE THE BAREST NECESSITIES...
...ONE HUNDRED AND TEN MILLION PEOPLE...
EVACUATING IN JUST TEN MONTHS THE WHOLE POPULATION OF JAPAN...
THE ONLY POSSIBLE ANSWER IS THAT I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.
MY DEAR YAMASHITA, WOULD YOU REALLY EXPECT A NEGATIVE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION?

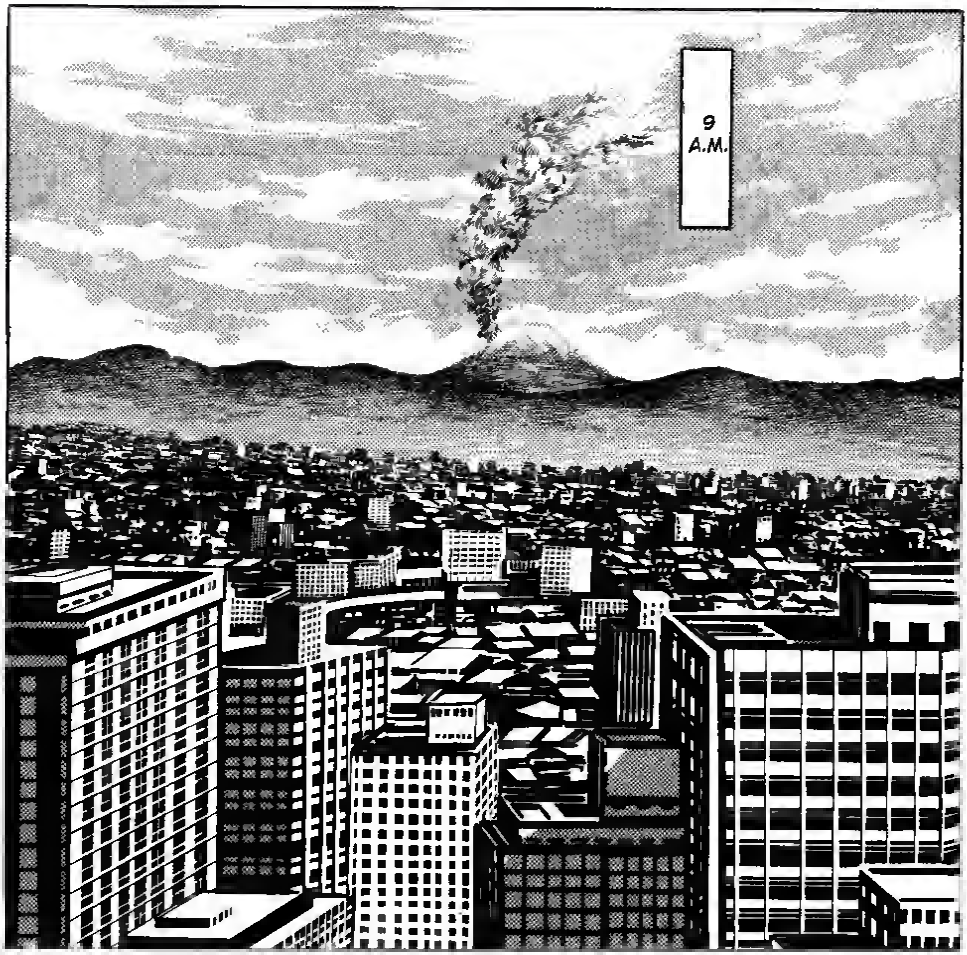
...IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS... THE ATTENTION OF THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE FOCUSED ON OUR COUNTRY...
IMAGINE... JAPAN WILL BECOME A COUNTRY LIKE VIETNAM, PALESTINE OR... BANGLADESH...
YOU MUST EXCUSE US... WE HAVE A MEETING WITH THE LEADERS OF THE OPPOSITION NEXT.


...IN YOUR DAYS AS CHIEF OF THE NEWS DIVISION, YOU SPENT TIME IN MANY WAR-RAVAGED COUNTRIES... VIETNAM, PALESTINE... BANGLADESH...
MATSU-KI...
...I CAN SEE THEM AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY ...
THIS MUST BRING BACK DISTURBING MEMORIES...
...YOU'VE SEEN WITH YOUR OWN EYES LIFE IN REFUGEE CAMPS...

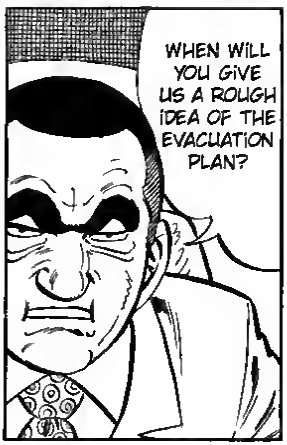


...IS THAT WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE FOR MY PEOPLE?
...THOSE WRETCHED FIGURES...

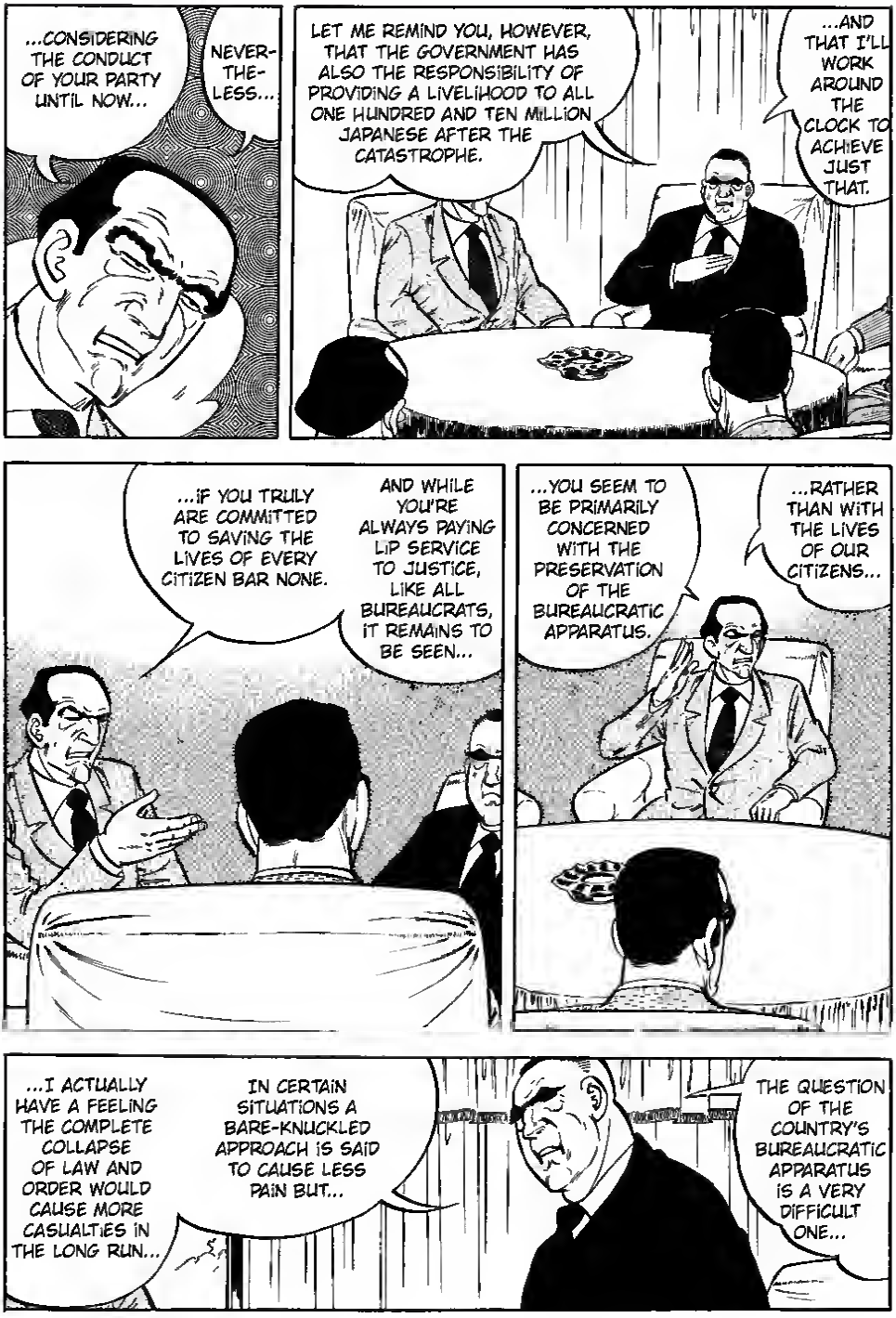
...

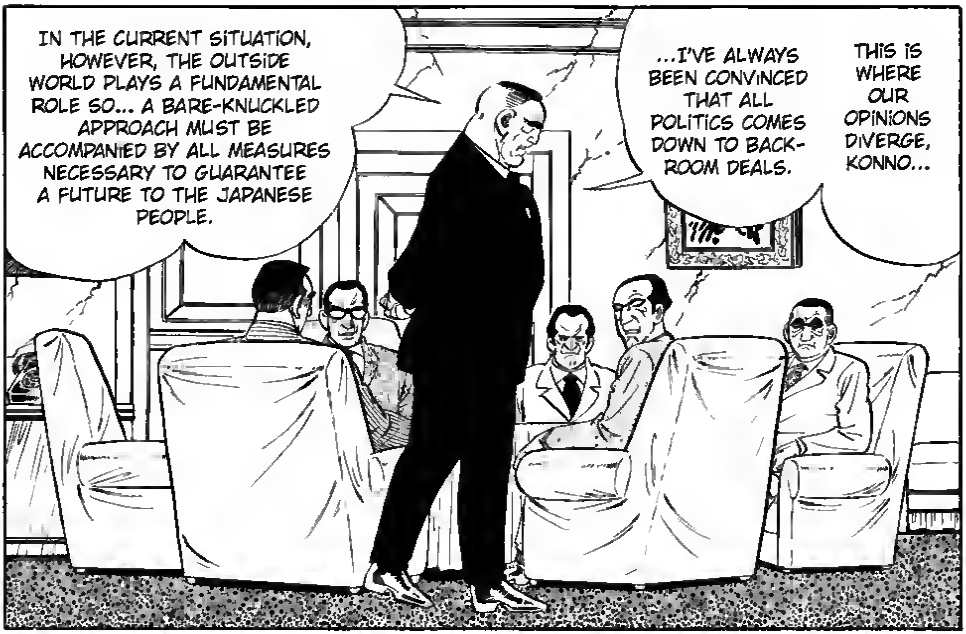

9 A.M.

IF WE DON'T HAVE A ROUGH OUTLINE BY THE TIME OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN TWO WEEKS, EVERYONE WILL BE UP IN ARMS!
...IT SHOULD BE ALMOST READY BY NOW.

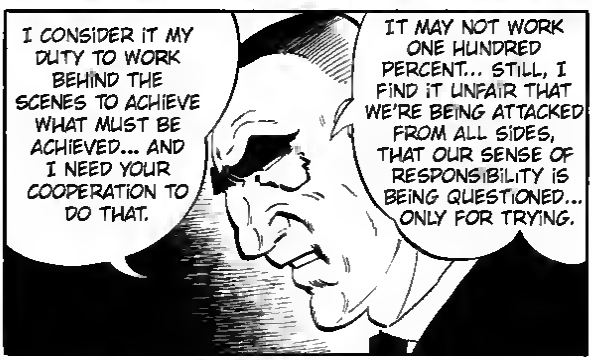

WHEN WILL YOU GIVE US A ROUGH IDEA OF THE EVACUATION PLAN?

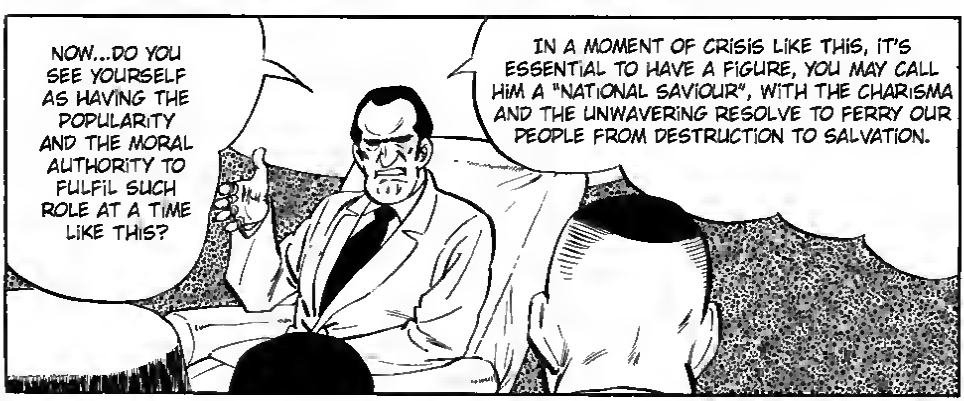
...YOU, THE RULING PARTY, HAVE BEEN SECRETLY LEAKING THE NEWS TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND THAT SEVERAL COMPANIES HAVE ALREADY STARTED MOVING THEIR ASSETS OVERSEAS...
...INSTEAD WE'VE JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT...
THE OBVIOUS APPROACH WOULD BE TO CREATE A BIPARTISAN PANEL IN THE DIET.
WITH REGARD TO EVACUATION PROCEDURES, BEFORE A BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE VERIFIES IF YOU HAVE INDEED GIVEN PRIORITY TO...
SUCH BEHAVIOUR UNDERLINES HOW THE MISCHIEVOUS WAYS OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION HAVE NOT CHANGED AT ALL.
WOULDN'T YOU AGREE THAT THE PARTIALITY SHOWN TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY CONTRADICTS YOUR PLEDGE TO REPRESENT EQUALLY ALL OUR CITIZENS?
...IS SAVING THE LIFE OF EVERY SINGLE JAPANESE.
I WANT TO MAKE VERY CLEAR THAT MY FOREMOST OBJECTIVE...
...I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF YOUR PLAN.
... SAVING THE LIFE OF EVERY CITIZEN...

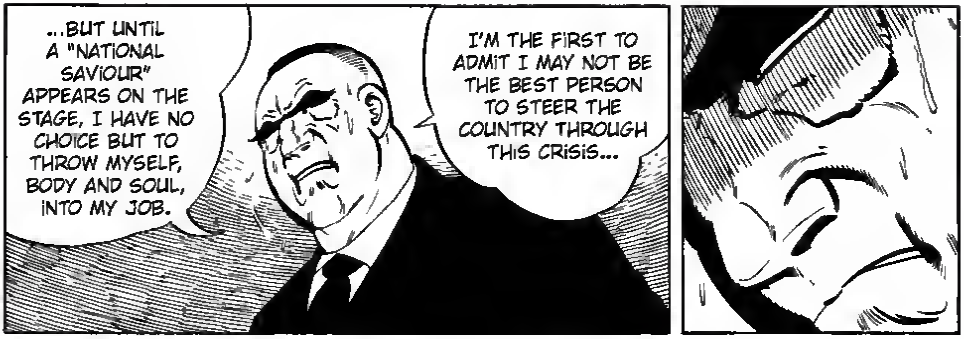

...CONSIDERING THE CONDUCT OF YOUR PARTY UNTIL NOW...
NEVER-THE-LESS...
LET ME REMIND YOU, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING A LIVELIHOOD TO ALL ONE HUNDRED AND TEN MILLION JAPANESE AFTER THE CATASTROPHE.
...AND THAT I'LL WORK AROUND THE CLOCK TO ACHIEVE JUST THAT.
...IF YOU TRULY ARE COMMITTED TO SAVING THE LIVES OF EVERY CITIZEN BAR NONE.
AND WHILE YOU'RE ALWAYS PAYING LIP SERVICE TO JUSTICE, LIKE ALL BUREAUCRATS, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN...
...YOU SEEM TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH THE PRESERVATION OF THE BUREAUCRATIC APPARATUS.
...RATHER THAN WITH THE LIVES OF OUR CITIZENS...
...I ACTUALLY HAVE A FEELING THE COMPLETE COLLAPSE OF LAW AND ORDER WOULD CAUSE MORE CASUALTIES IN THE LONG RUN...
IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS A BARE-KNUCKLED APPROACH IS SAID TO CAUSE LESS PAIN BUT...
THE QUESTION OF THE COUNTRY'S BUREAUCRATIC APPARATUS IS A VERY DIFFICULT ONE...


IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, HOWEVER, THE OUTSIDE WORLD PLAYS A FUNDAMENTAL ROLE SO... A BARE-KNUCKLED APPROACH MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE A FUTURE TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE.
...I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CONVINCED THAT ALL POLITICS COMES DOWN TO BACK-ROOM DEALS.
THIS IS WHERE OUR OPINIONS DIVERGE, KONNO...

...IN POLITICS IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO STEP INTO THE SPOT-LIGHT!
I AGREE THAT BACKSTAGE DEALS ARE SOMETIMES NECES-SARY BUT...


I CONSIDER IT MY DUTY TO WORK BEHIND THE SCENES TO ACHIEVE WHAT MUST BE ACHIEVED... AND I NEED YOUR COOPERATION TO DO THAT.
IT MAY NOT WORK ONE HUNDRED PERCENT... STILL, I FIND IT UNFAIR THAT WE'RE BEING ATTACKED FROM ALL SIDES, THAT OUR SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY IS BEING QUESTIONED... ONLY FOR TRYING.

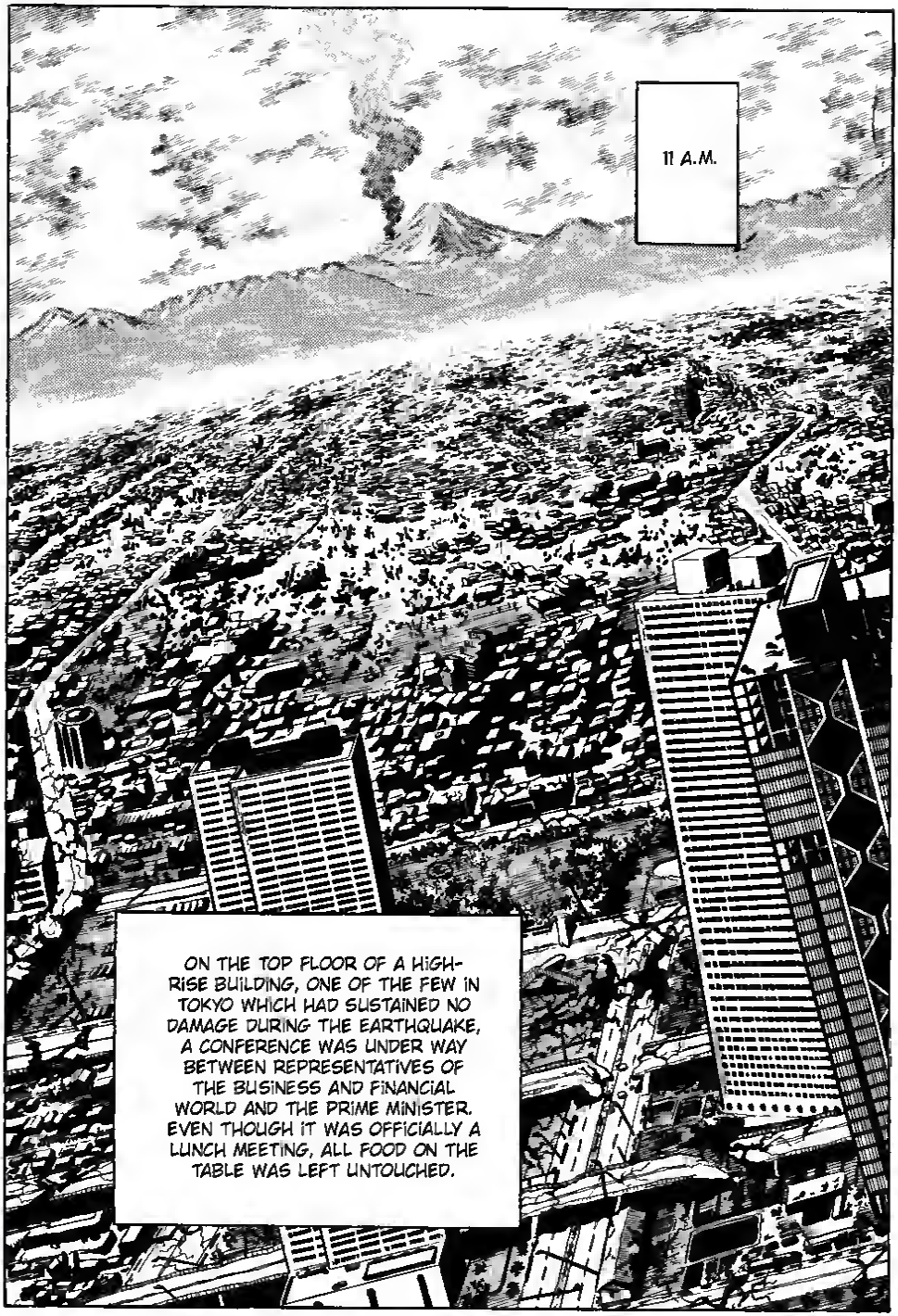

NOW...DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AS HAVING THE POPULARITY AND THE MORAL AUTHORITY TO FULFIL SUCH ROLE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
IN A MOMENT OF CRISIS LIKE THIS, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO HAVE A FIGURE, YOU MAY CALL HIM A "NATIONAL SAVIOUR", WITH THE CHARISMA AND THE UNWAVERING RESOLVE TO FERRY OUR PEOPLE FROM DESTRUCTION TO SALVATION.


...BUT UNTIL A "NATIONAL SAVIOUR" APPEARS ON THE STAGE, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO THROW MYSELF, BODY AND SOUL, INTO MY JOB.
I'M THE FIRST TO ADMIT I MAY NOT BE THE BEST PERSON TO STEER THE COUNTRY THROUGH THIS CRISIS...

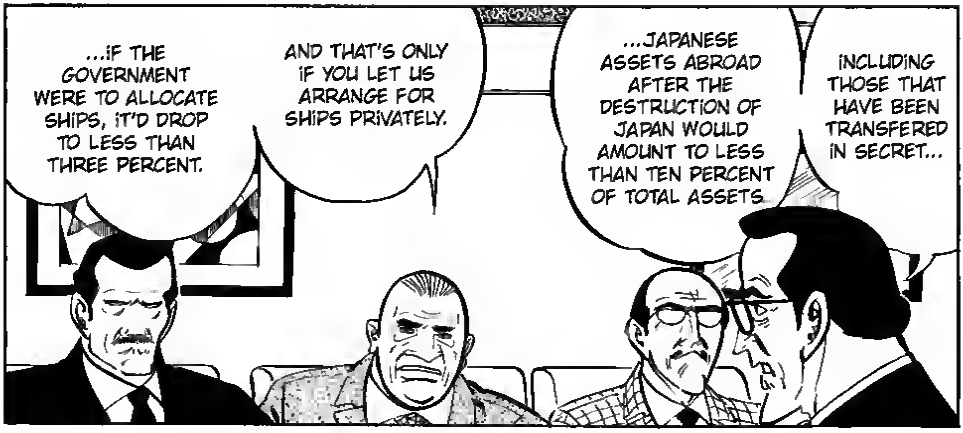
THE PLANNING STAGE IS ALMOST OVER. WE'LL BE HAPPY TO SHARE DETAILS WITH YOU ONCE YOU'VE CHOSEN YOUR REPRESENTATIVES.
IN ANY CASE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU SHARED WITH US THE OUTLINE OF PLAN D AS WELL AS THE DETAILS OF THE EVACUATION PLAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE... WE CANNOT WAIT TWO WEEKS UNTIL THE DIET SESSION.
HEROES ARE CHOSEN BY THE PEOPLE.

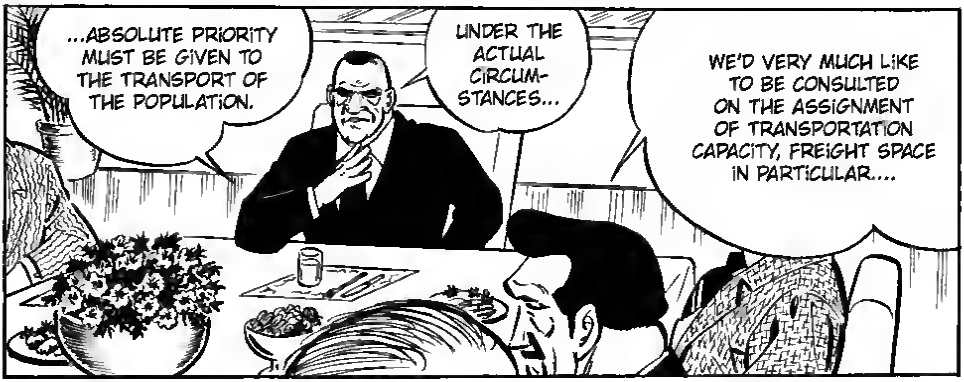
HAS HIS HIGHNESS BEEN INFORMED?

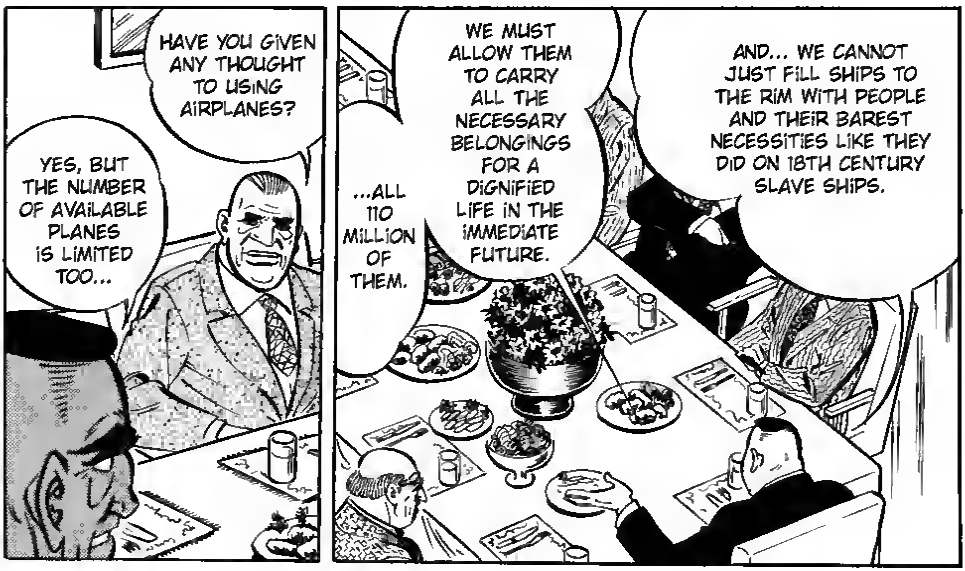
I COUNT ON YOUR COOPERATION.
WE ARE AIMING FOR TWO WEEKS BUT, SHOULD THE NEWS LEAK OUT EARLIER, WE MUST BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT.
COULD YOU BE READY IN TWO DAYS?


11 A.M.
ON THE TOP FLOOR OF A HIGH-RISE BUILDING, ONE OF THE FEW IN TOKYO WHICH HAD SUSTAINED NO DAMAGE DURING THE EARTHQUAKE, A CONFERENCE WAS UNDER WAY BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL WORLD AND THE PRIME MINISTER. EVEN THOUGH IT WAS OFFICIALLY A LUNCH MEETING, ALL FOOD ON THE TABLE WAS LEFT UNTOUCHED.

I'VE CHOSEN TO INFORM YOU AHEAD OF TIME OF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF ASSUMING YOU'RE BEING GIVEN A FREE HAND TO ACT IN THE SOLE INTERESTS OF YOUR BUSINESSES.
...IT WOULD CAUSE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING COSTS TO SKYROCKET WITH NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE REST OF THE POPULATION.
IF ALL THE FIRMS THAT HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE NEWS WERE TO START ARRANGING SHIPS AND FLIGHTS FOR EVACUATION IN THE RUN UP TO THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT...
...WE COULDN'T HOPE TO TRANSFER ABROAD MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL FIXED ASSETS OF JAPANESE COMPANIES.
AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE...
DOES THAT MEAN THE GOVERNMENT WILL EXERT COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE ASSIGNMENT OF SHIPS?


...IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO ALLOCATE SHIPS, IT'D DROP TO LESS THAN THREE PERCENT.
AND THAT'S ONLY IF YOU LET US ARRANGE FOR SHIPS PRIVATELY.
...JAPANESE ASSETS ABROAD AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF JAPAN WOULD AMOUNT TO LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF TOTAL ASSETS
INCLUDING THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN TRANSFERED IN SECRET...


...ABSOLUTE PRIORITY MUST BE GIVEN TO THE TRANSPORT OF THE POPULATION.
UNDER THE ACTUAL CIRCUM-STANCES...
WE'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO BE CONSULTED ON THE ASSIGNMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CAPACITY, FREIGHT SPACE IN PARTICULAR....


HAVE YOU GIVEN ANY THOUGHT TO USING AIRPLANES?
YES, BUT THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE PLANES IS LIMITED TOO...
...ALL 110 MILLION OF THEM.
WE MUST ALLOW THEM TO CARRY ALL THE NECESSARY BELONGINGS FOR A DIGNIFIED LIFE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
AND... WE CANNOT JUST FILL SHIPS TO THE RIM WITH PEOPLE AND THEIR BAREST NECESSITIES LIKE THEY DID ON 18TH CENTURY SLAVE SHIPS.

JAPAN IS IN NO POSITION TO MAKE DEMANDS... WE JUST DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CLOUT TO COMMANDEER A LARGE NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL AIRLINERS AND TO DISRUPT THE WORLD'S COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
WE ARE IN TALKS WITH THE AMERICANS AND THE SOVIETS FOR THE USE OF THEIR LARGE-SCALE TRANSPORT PLANES BUT... YOU WANT THE TRUTH?
...WE HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT COULD HAPPEN BETWEEN NOW AND THEN...
AND THOUGH THE SCIENTISTS HAVE GIVEN US A TEN-MONTH DEADLINE...
AND REMEMBER THAT THE EVACUATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT IN A SITUATION OF CONFUSION AND PANIC
AND THAT'S ALSO THE CASE WITH SHIPS... BESIDES, AFTER THE LAST EARTHQUAKE, FACILITIES IN TOKYO AND YOKOHAMA HAVE BEEN OPERATING AT LESS THAN FORTY PERCENT CAPACITY

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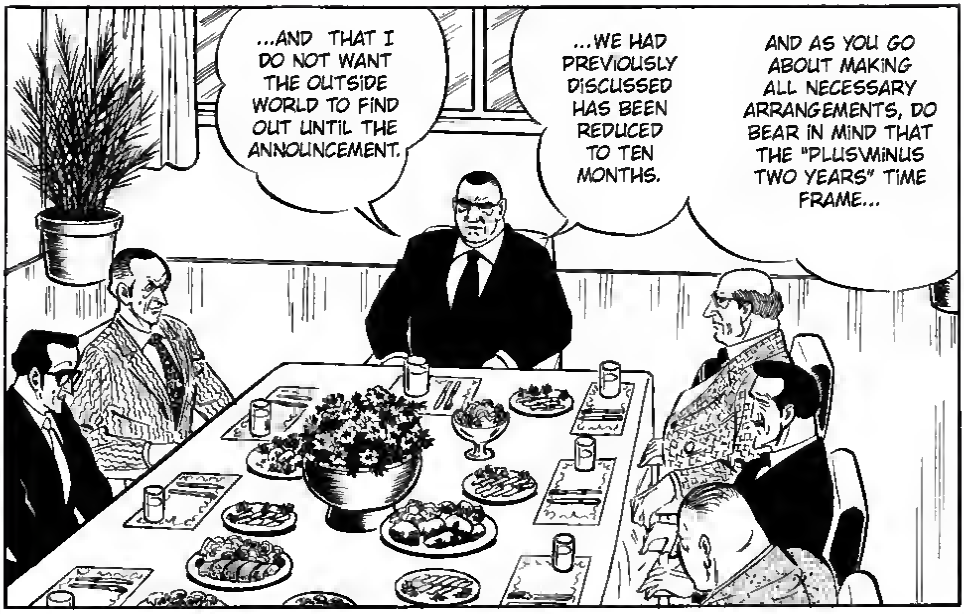
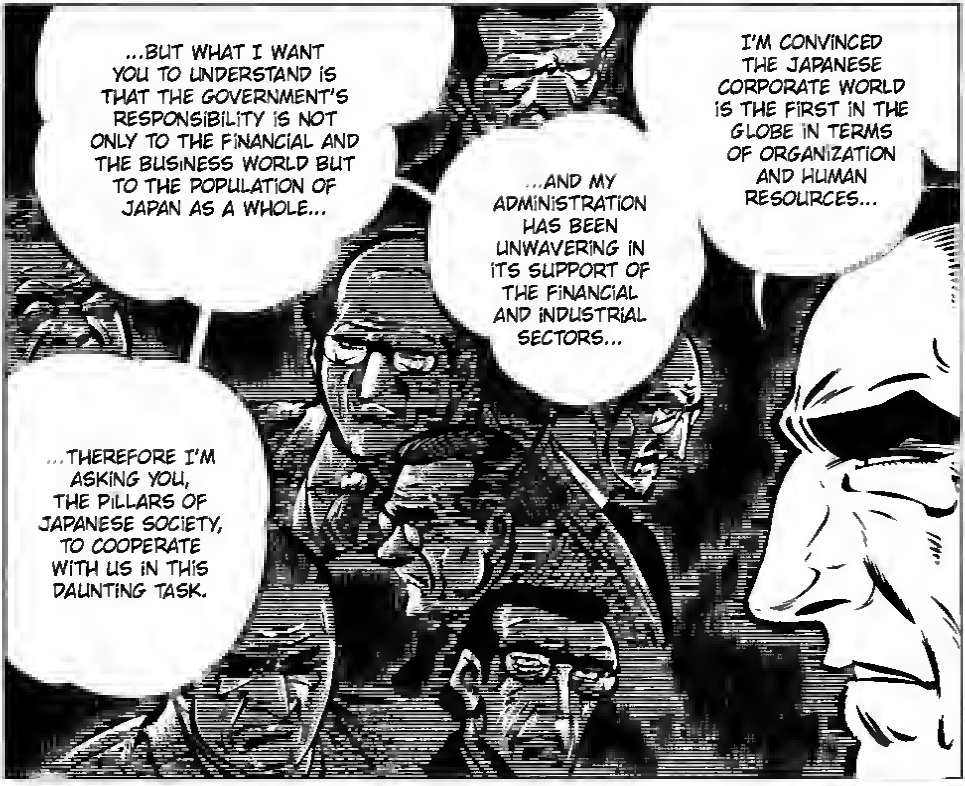
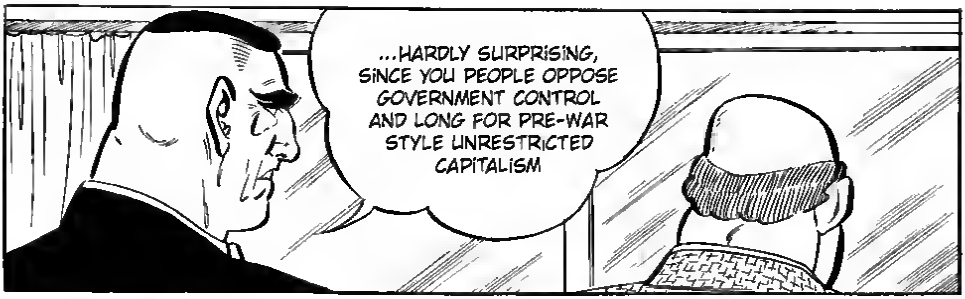
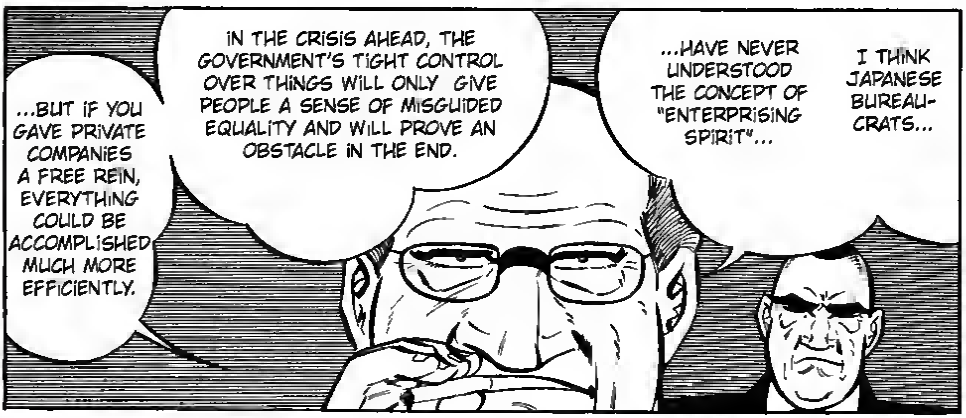
UNTIL THEN, I DO EXPECT ALL OF YOU TO KEEP THE PROMISE OF "DISCIPLINED CONDUCT" YOU MADE TO MY ADMINISTRATION A YEAR AGO.
I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST JUST AFTER THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN TWO WEEKS...
AS FOR THE ORDINANCE REGULATING THE ALLOCATION OF SHIPS... WHEN WOULD IT BE ADVISABLE TO PASS IT...?

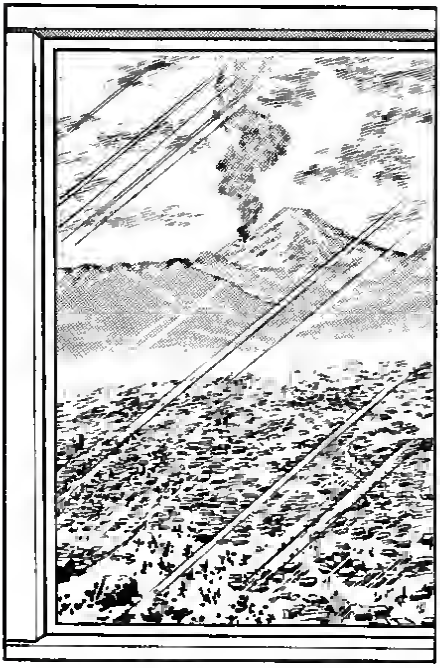

...AND THAT I DO NOT WANT THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO FIND OUT UNTIL THE ANNOUNCEMENT.
...WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED HAS BEEN REDUCED TO TEN MONTHS.
AND AS YOU GO ABOUT MAKING ALL NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS, DO BEAR IN MIND THAT THE "PLUSVMINUS TWO YEARS" TIME FRAME...

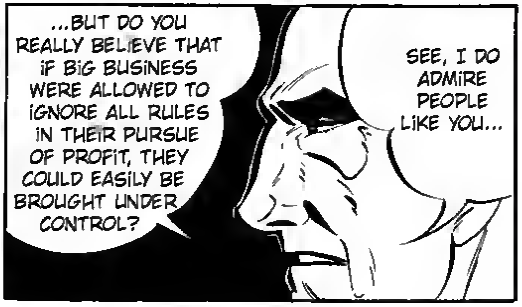

...BUT WHAT I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT ONLY TO THE FINANCIAL AND THE BUSINESS WORLD BUT TO THE POPULATION OF JAPAN AS A WHOLE...
...AND MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN UNWAVERING IN ITS SUPPORT OF THE FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SECTORS...
I'M CONVINCED THE JAPANESE CORPORATE WORLD IS THE FIRST IN THE GLOBE IN TERMS OF ORGANIZATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES...
...THEREFORE I'M ASKING YOU, THE PILLARS OF JAPANESE SOCIETY, TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THIS DAUNTING TASK.

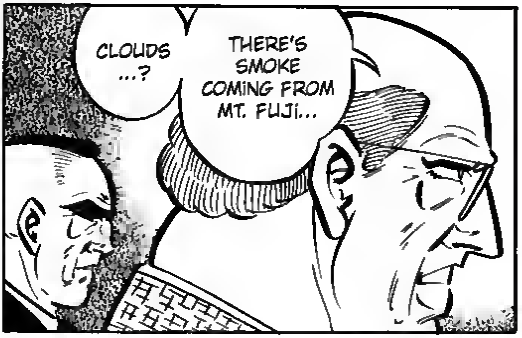
...IT CAN ONLY WORK WITH YOUR FULL COOPERATION.
...I FEAR A NEW WAVE OF RESTRICTIONS AND REGULATIONS...
... A NATIONAL EMERGENCY, UHM...?
COMPANIES WILL BE FREE TO MOVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS WORLD AT WILL BUT.... A GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A TERRITORY OR ASSETS...
...AND ONCE WE LOSE OUR NATIONAL TERRITORY ITS POWER WILL BECOME ALMOST MEANINGLESS...
NOWADAYS THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT HAVE THE SAME AUTHORITY IT HAD DURING THE WAR, WHEN IT WAS BACKED BY THE ARMY...
I THINK YOU SHOULD LET PRIVATE COMPANIES TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, PRIME MINISTER.


...HARDLY SURPRISING, SINCE YOU PEOPLE OPPOSE GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND LONG FOR PRE-WAR STYLE UNRESTRICTED CAPITALISM


I THINK JAPANESE BUREAU-CRATS...
...HAVE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE CONCEPT OF "ENTERPRISING SPIRIT"...
IN THE CRISIS AHEAD, THE GOVERNMENT'S TIGHT CONTROL OVER THINGS WILL ONLY GIVE PEOPLE A SENSE OF MISGUIDED EQUALITY AND WILL PROVE AN OBSTACLE IN THE END.
...BUT IF YOU GAVE PRIVATE COMPANIES A FREE REIN, EVERYTHING COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED MUCH MORE EFFICIENTLY.




SEE, I DO ADMIRE PEOPLE LIKE YOU...
...BUT DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT IF BIG BUSINESS WERE ALLOWED TO IGNORE ALL RULES IN THEIR PURSUE OF PROFIT, THEY COULD EASILY BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL?


THERE'S SMOKE COMING FROM MT. FUJI...
CLOUDS ...?

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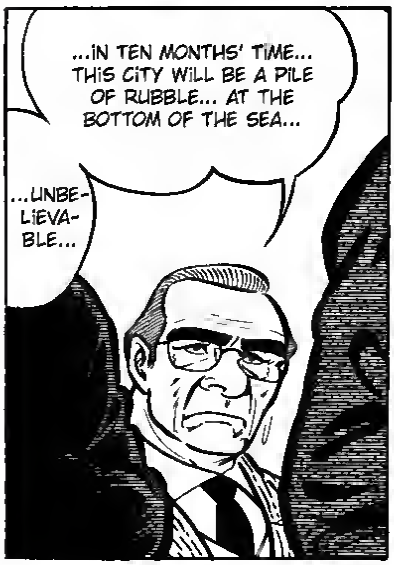
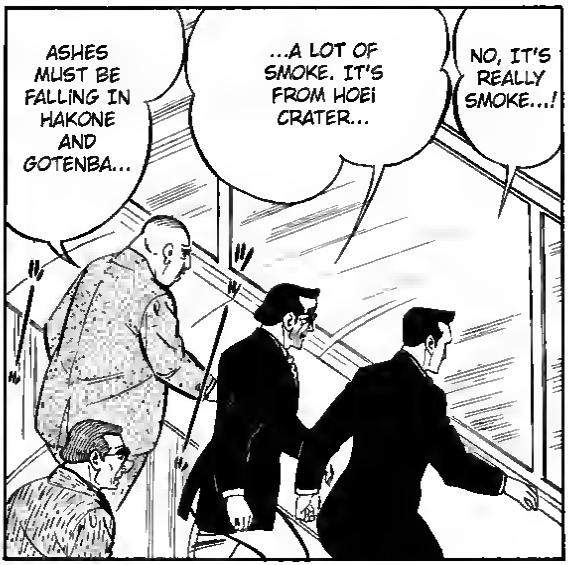
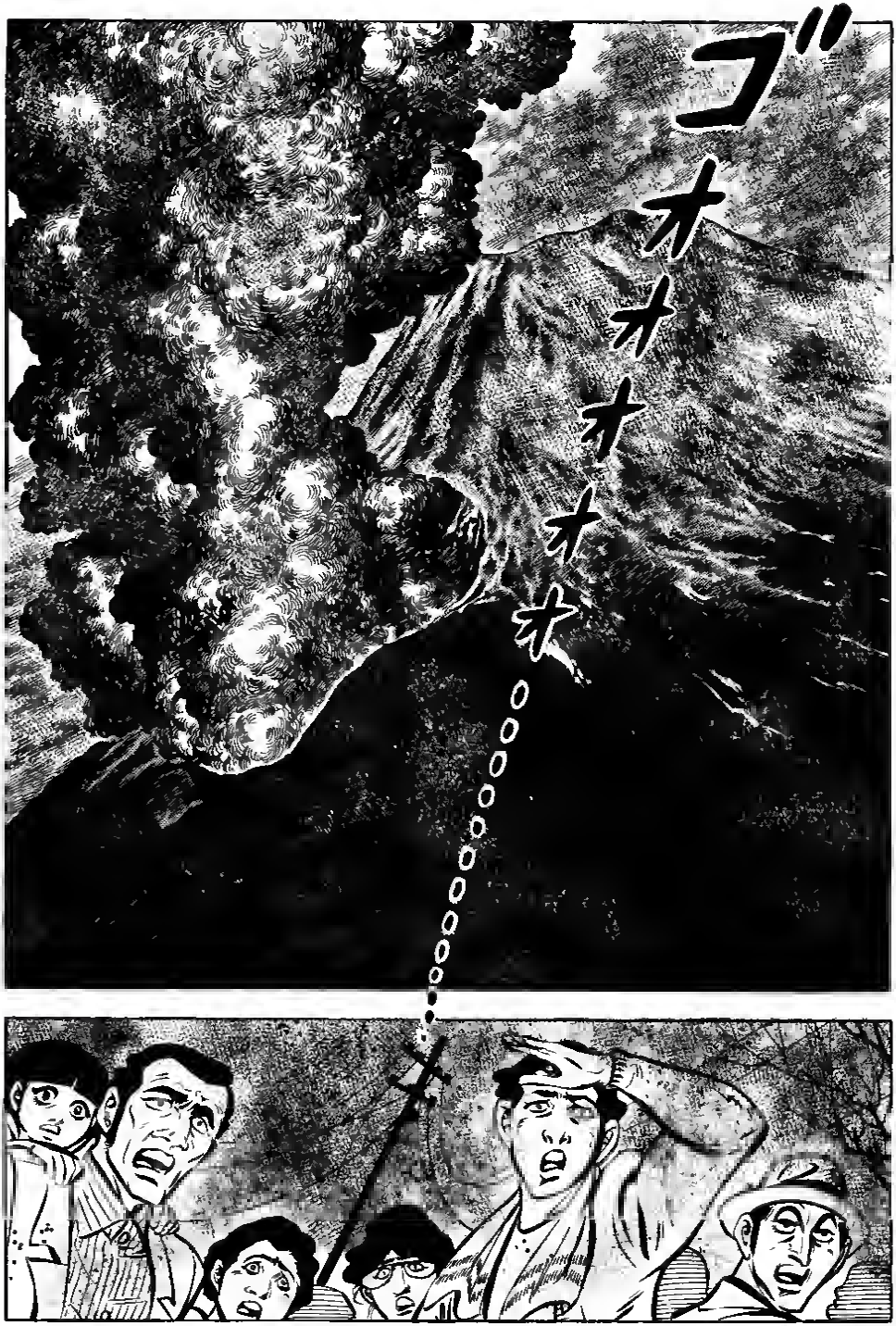

...IN TEN MONTHS' TIME... THIS CITY WILL BE A PILE OF RUBBLE... AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA...
...UNBELIEVABLE...


ASHES MUST BE FALLING IN HAKONE AND GOTENBA...
...A LOT OF SMOKE. IT'S FROM HOEI CRATER...
NO, IT'S REALLY SMOKE...!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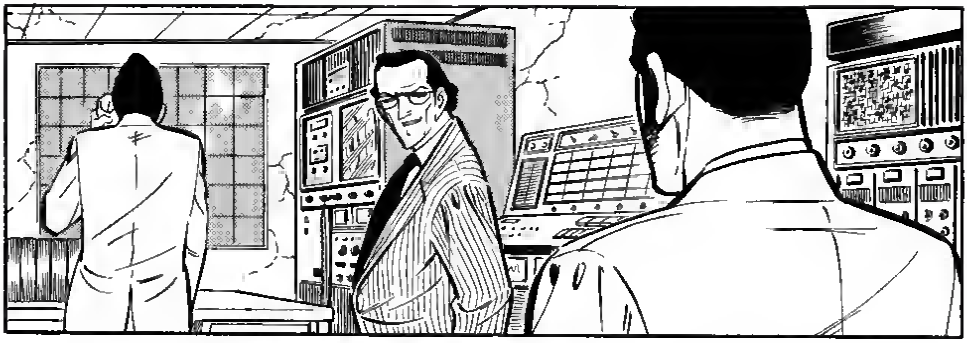
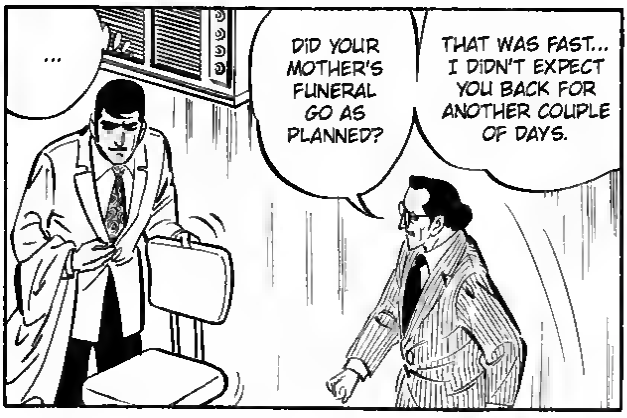
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, PLAN D HEAD-QUAR-TERS.
A VAST AMOUNT OF ENERGY IS BUILDING UP ALONG THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE SHIZUOKA-ITOGAWA TECTONIC LINE....
FROM THE KOFU BASIN TO SHIZUOKA... LOCALISED EARTHQUAKES ARE BREAKING OUT ALL OVER THE PLACE!
WE MUST ASSUME THAT MT. FUJI'S ERUPTION WILL OCCUR FAIRLY SOON...

THEY´RE EXPECTING A FLANK ERUPTION LINKING THE HOEI CRATER WITH MT. ASHITAKA BUT... WE CAN'T BE SURE... A MASSIVE EXPLOSION IS ALSO VERY LIKELY.
... AS OF NOW... PLUS RATHER THAN MINUS...
...240 HOURS, PLUS/ MINUS 10...
...PRE-DICTED TIME?
THERE'S A REMARKABLE RISE IN GROUND TEMPERATURE TOO... THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE TECTONIC LINE IS MOVING LATERALLY TO SOUTH-SOUTHEAST...
IF IT'S ALONG THE HOEI-ASHITAKA LINE, NUMAZU COULD BE FULLY HIT...
カ"
IF THE WHOLE FUJI VOLCANIC RANGE FLARES UP, ALL TRAFFIC BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN JAPAN COULD BE CUT OFF!
THEY SAY SMOKE HAS BEGUN TO RISE FROM KAYAGA PEAK NORTH OF KOFU... AND THE ASAMA VOLCANIC GROUP HAS BEEN ERUPTING FOR SOME TIME NOW...

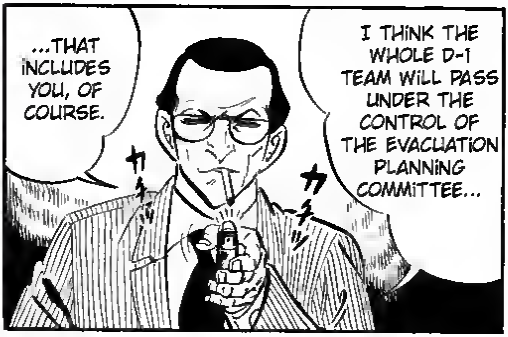


IS IT REALLY... TEN MONTHS?


...
DID YOUR MOTHER'S FUNERAL GO AS PLANNED?
THAT WAS FAST... I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU BACK FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF DAYS.

...BE NEEDING A SUBMERSIBLE OPERATOR ANY LONGER.
AT THIS POINT, I ASSUME YOU WON'T...

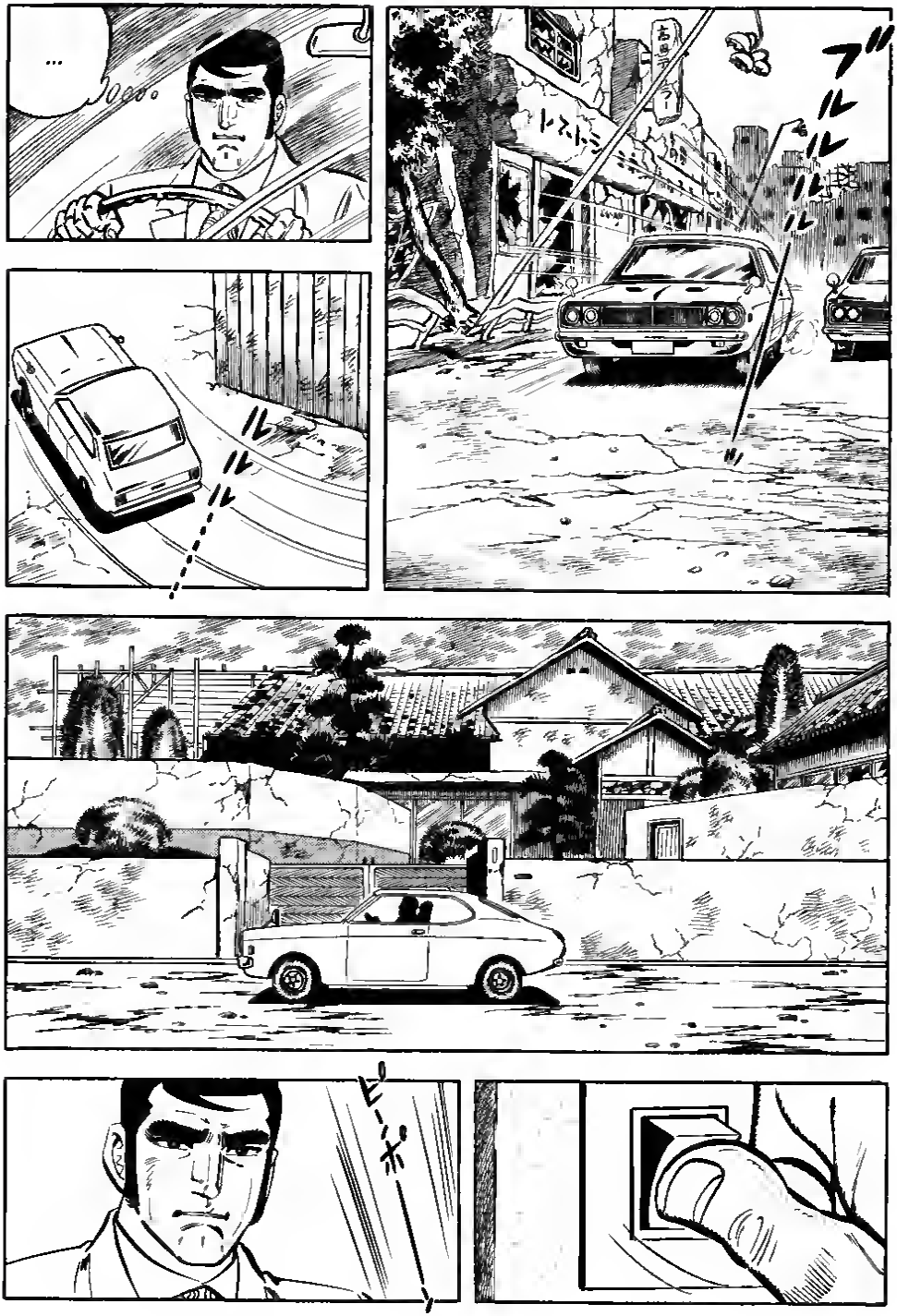
YOU HEARD TOO ...?
THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE IN TWO WEEKS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO NEXT, YUKINAGA?


...THAT INCLUDES YOU, OF COURSE.
I THINK THE WHOLE D-1 TEAM WILL PASS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE EVACUATION PLANNING COMMITTEE...

.... AS A DEEP-SEA SUBMARINE OPERATOR...
...I JUST FOUND MYSELF INVOLVED WITH YOUR GROUP AND WAS ASKED TO HELP TEMPORARILY WITH THIS PROJECT...
I'M NOT A PUBLIC SERVANT...
AS I SEE IT... RIGHT NOW THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO WHICH COULDN'T BE DONE BY SOMEBODY ELSE...
...AND NOW?
YOU... DO HAVE A POINT.
I SEE...
...THE STAGE WHEN WE HAD TO KEEP OUR WORK HIDDEN FROM THE WORLD IS NOW OVER... THINKING OF WHAT JAPAN HAS DONE FOR ME IN TERMS OF EDUCATION AND SO ON, I THINK I'VE MORE THAN REPAID MY DEBT...
...AND THE GOVERNMENT IS FULLY IN CHARGE OF THINGS.
WE NOW KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN AND WHEN...
THINKING YOU HAVE A DEBT TO REPAY TO YOUR COUNTRY IS... VERY TYPICAL OF YOU...
...THAT'S HOW THINGS STAND FOR ME.
OF COURSE THIS IS ONLY MY PERSONAL OPINION, BUT...

...I'M SURE NOBODY COULD REFUSE ME A SUBSTANTIAL BONUS FOR MY SERVICES TO THE COUNTRY UP TO THIS POINT... RIGHT?
I'M THINKING OF GETTING MARRIED ...
YES...
SO... ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT?
NO, NO. CONGRATULATIONS, ONEDERA.
I MUST ADMIT THAT GETTING MARRIED JUST AS JAPAN IS GOING TO SINK IS-
DO YOU FIND IT STRANGE... MARRIAGE?
AH, AH, AH, AH!
SHE COULD STILL TURN ME DOWN, YOU SEE...
I CAN'T TELL YOU JUST YET.
AND MAY I ASK WHO IS THE BRIDE?
BUT I IMAGINE OLD MAN WATARI HAS.
NO.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY NEWS OF PROFESSOR TADORO LATELY?
...WE SHOULD HAVE A FAREWELL PARTY ALL TOGETHER.
WE'LL MISS YOU...

YOU CAN USE MINE...
COULD ANYBODY LEND ME THEIR CAR FOR A SHORT WHILE?
THANKS!
YOU KNOW WHICH ONE, RIGHT?
...IT'S IN THE PARKING LOT.
...HIS MOTHER JUST PASSED AWAY. MAYBE HE'S FEELING LONELY...
....ONODERA IS SUDDENLY INTERESTED IN MARRIAGE... SURPRISING.
HE'S A GOOD MAN... COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT TO MONEY OR STATUS.
...OR MAYBE HE JUST WANTS TO TAKE HIS FIANCEE ABROAD UNDER THE PRETEXT OF A HONEYMOON... GOOD ON HIM.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I JUST WANTED TO HAVE A WORD WITH HER...
IS REIKO... YOUR SISTER, HOME?
Hi, TORU.
HELLO, ONEDERA!
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...BY CAR?
ODA-WARA ...?
SHE WENT TO VISIT A RELATIVE NEAR ODAWARA. SHE TOOK THE CAR, PROBABLY WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE...
SHE'S NOT IN RIGHT NOW.
BUT DON'T TELL HER I TOLD YOU, OK?
MY SISTER REALLY LIKES YOU, ONODERA...
DO YOU WANT TO HEAR SOME GOOD NEWS?
...
...JUST NOW...?
THAT NOISE...
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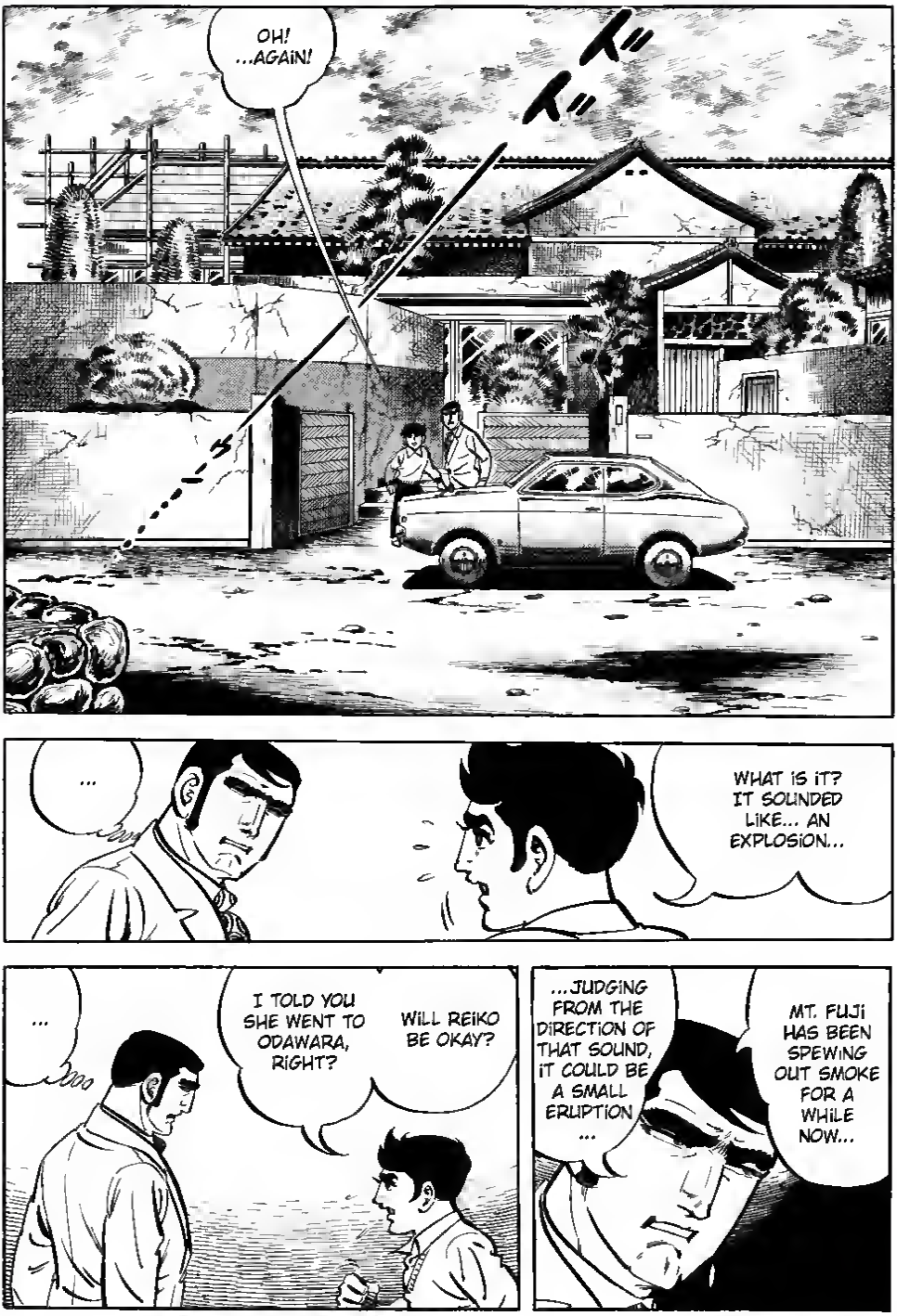
OH! ...AGAIN!
...
WHAT IS IT? IT SOUNDED LIKE... AN EXPLOSION...
...
I TOLD YOU SHE WENT TO ODAWARA, RIGHT?
WILL REIKO BE OKAY?
...JUDGING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THAT SOUND, IT COULD BE A SMALL ERUPTION ...
MT. FUJI HAS BEEN SPEWING OUT SMOKE FOR A WHILE NOW...

I'LL TELL HER TO CALL THIS NUMBER.
GOT IT.
...TELL HER TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME.
ANYWAY, WHEN SHE COMES BACK...
THERE ARE A FEW MORE THINGS I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF.
I'LL BE BACK.
ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
...SAY THAT AGAIN?
I WANT TO MARRY HER.
I'LL TELL HER MYSELF....
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT ME TO TELL REIKO?

WE'LL HAVE TO SEE WHAT SHE SAYS...
...ONE OF THE FAMILY! YIPPIE!
IN WHICH CASE... YOU'LL BECOME...
I WANT TO MARRY YOUR SISTER.
...IF YOU PROMISE TO TAKE ME DOWN IN THE SUB ONCE YOU'RE MARRIED!
DON'T WORRY! I WILL PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU...
...WHY?
...I... WON'T BE GOING DOWN... FOR A WHILE.
SEE YOU LATER.
NO, FORGET IT...
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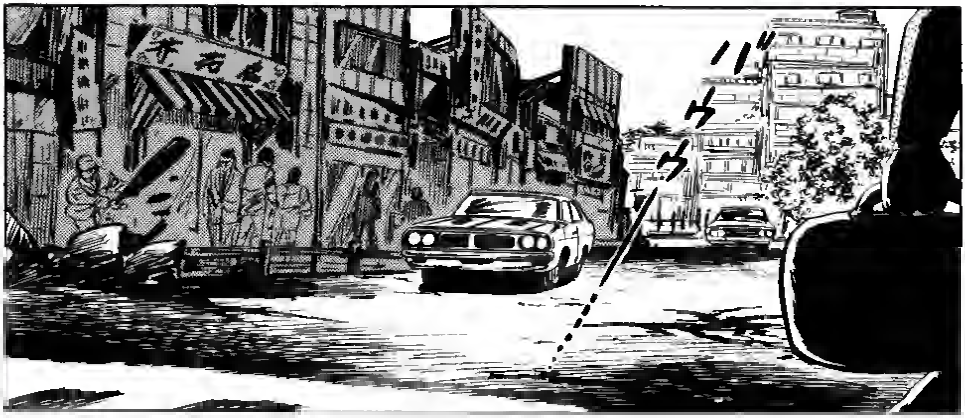
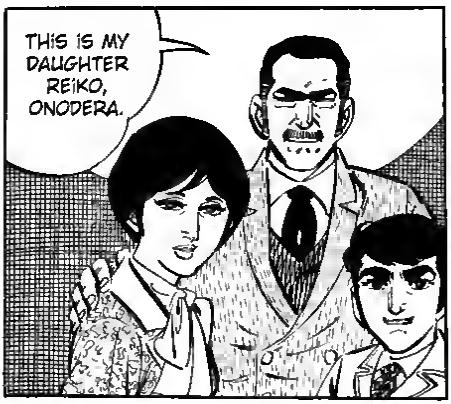
....UH?
...YOU SEE, TORU, JAPAN IS...
...

LOOK AT THE SMOKE... IT LOOKS BAD!
IS THAT WHAT THAT NOISE WAS?
HOW ABSURD! ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S AN OMEN... OR SOMETHING?
YOU KNOW THAT RUMOUR ABOUT JAPAN SINKING...? THEY SAY IT WILL START WITH MT. FUJI'S ERUPTION...




THIS IS MY DAUGHTER REIKO, ONODERA.

I'VE ONLY MET HER A FEW TIMES...
...
...BUT NOW THAT SHE'S NOT MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER ANYMORE... THAT SHE'S A GIRL LIKE ANY OTHER... I'M FINALLY FREE TO ASK HER TO MARRY ME...
...I'M NOT EVEN SURE IF I LOVE HER OR NOT...
...THE METEORO-LOGICAL AGENCY AND THE LOCAL POLICE...
...THREE SMALL EXPLOSIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED JUST BELOW MT. FUJI'S HOEI CRATER... TRAFFIC IN THE AREA HAS been DISRUPTED BY HEAVY SMOKE AND FALLING ASHES... SOME ROADS ARE REPORTED BLOCKED
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...ARE URGING RESIDENTS TO EVACUATE THE FOLLOWING AREAS: HAKONE, GOTENBA, ODAWARA, HIGASHI FUJI...

A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT...
...OMINOUS RUMOURS BEGAN TO SPREAD OUT OF THE BLUE IN MOST CITIES.
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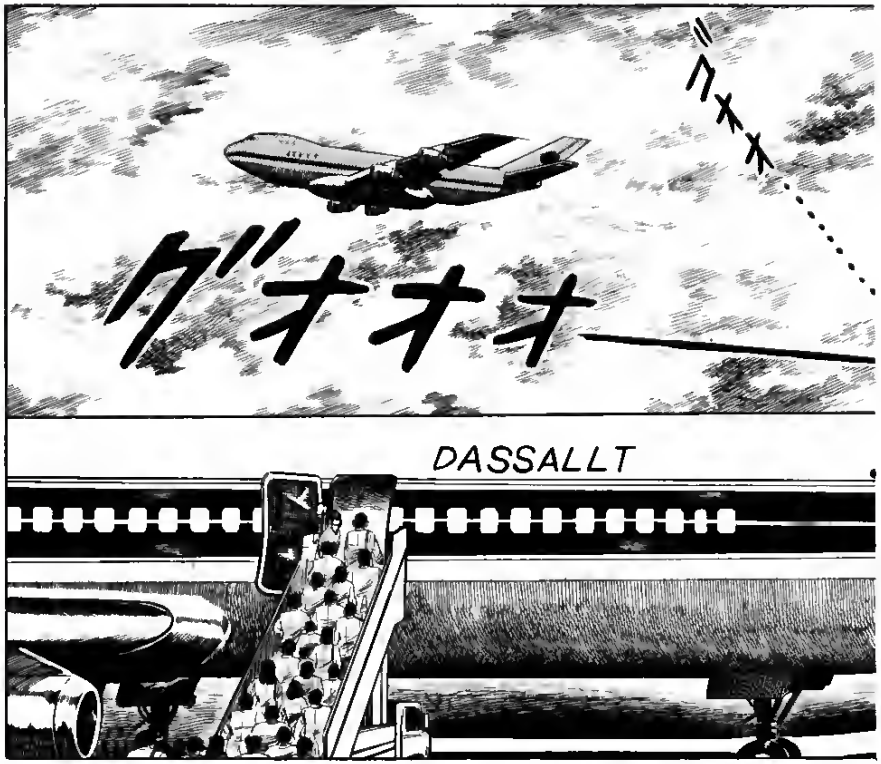
... IN THAT CASE, THE ONLY OPTION IS... LEAVING...
...THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME TRUTH TO THE RUMOUR THAT JAPAN IS SINKING...
...I HEARD IT TOO. AND ALSO THAT CHIBA AND THE SHONAN COAST WILL GO UNDER... CAN IT BE TRUE?
...AND THAT SOON... JAPAN WILL BE COMPLETELY WIPED OUT!
...I HEARD THAT MUCH BIGGER EARTH-QUAKES ARE ON THE WAY... ERUPTIONS TOO...
...I BET ONLY THE FILTHY RICH WILL SURVIVE!
CAN YOU IMAGINE THE CHAOS AND CONFUSION...?
...THERE ARE MORE THAN A HUNDRED MILLION OF US...
...ESCAPING ABROAD? EVERYONE...?
...I GOT IT! LET'S ASK OUR SCIENCE TEACHER!
BUT... MY BROTHER SAID IT'S TRUE.
JAPAN SINKING...? THAT'S A LIE!
AND NOT JUST TOKYO, FROM WHAT I HEAR...
SO... DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE TOKYO WILL SINK, SIR?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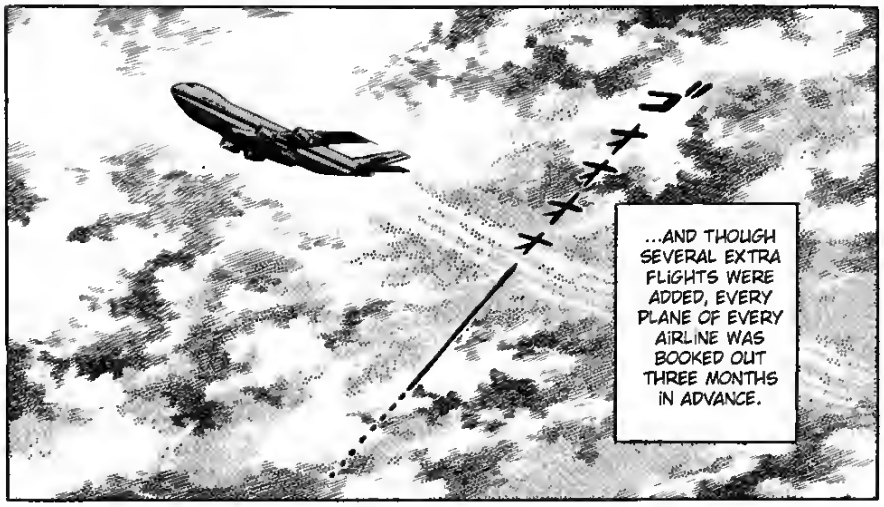
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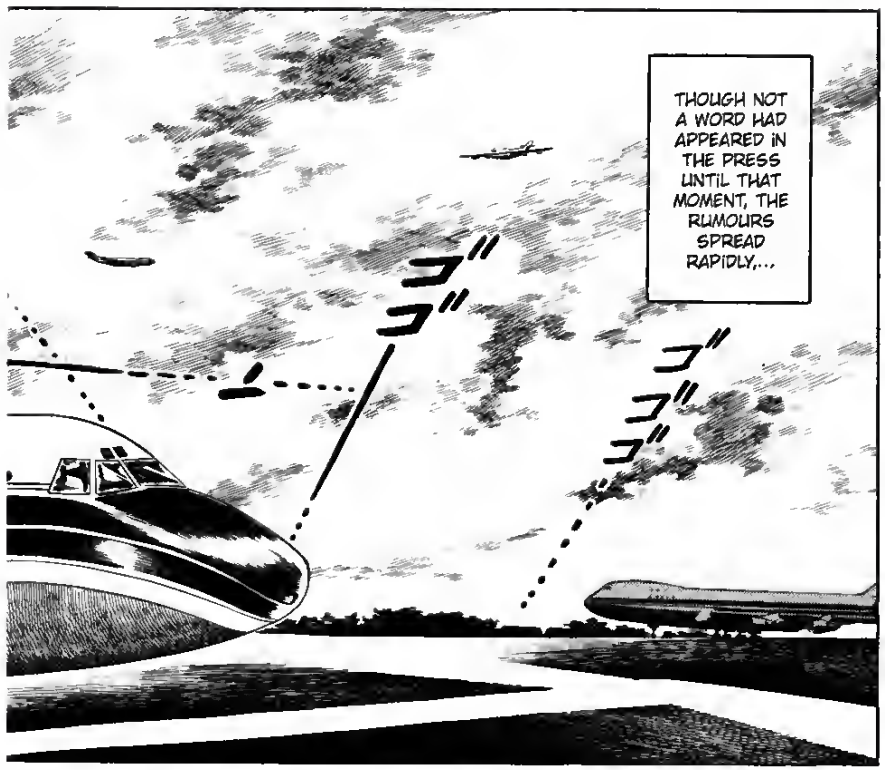
...AND THOUGH SEVERAL EXTRA FLIGHTS WERE ADDED, EVERY PLANE OF EVERY AIRLINE WAS BOOKED OUT THREE MONTHS IN ADVANCE.


THOUGH NOT A WORD HAD APPEARED IN THE PRESS UNTIL THAT MOMENT, THE RUMOURS SPREAD RAPIDLY,...
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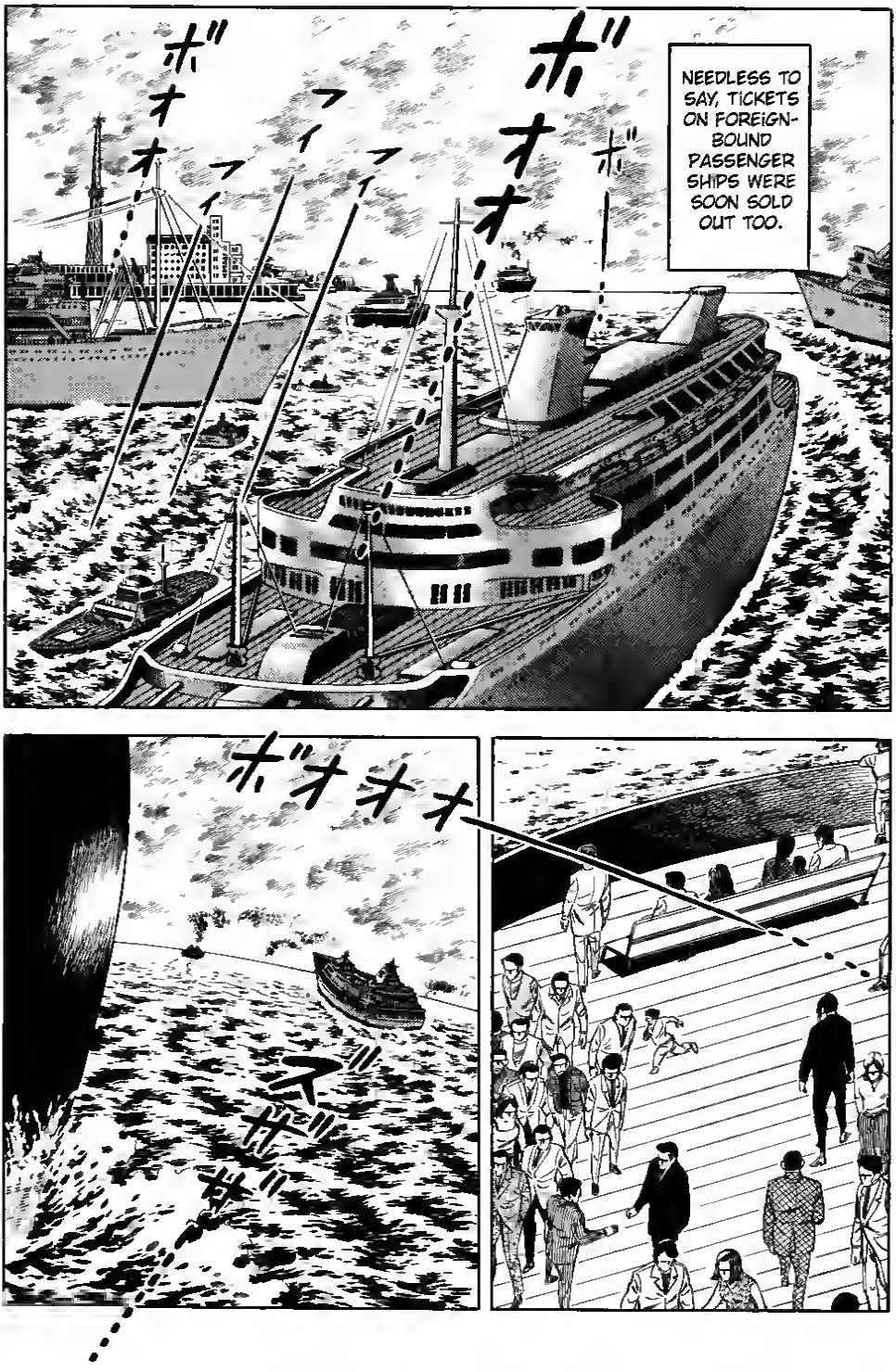
AIRLINES WERE OVERWHELMED WITH REQUESTS FOR TICKETS FROM PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO FLEE ABROAD ...PLANES LEAVING JAPAN WERE FLYING AT FULL CAPACITY EVERY DAY.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NEEDLESS TO SAY, TICKETS ON FOREIGN-BOUND PASSENGER SHIPS WERE SOON SOLD OUT TOO.
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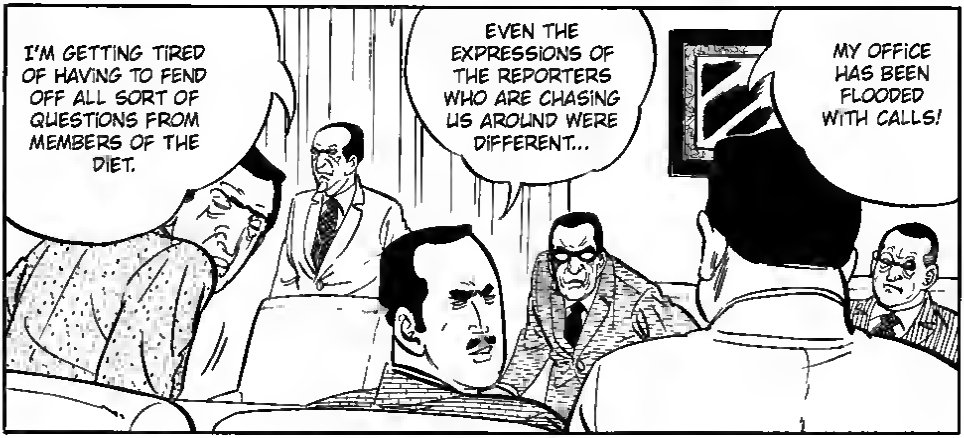
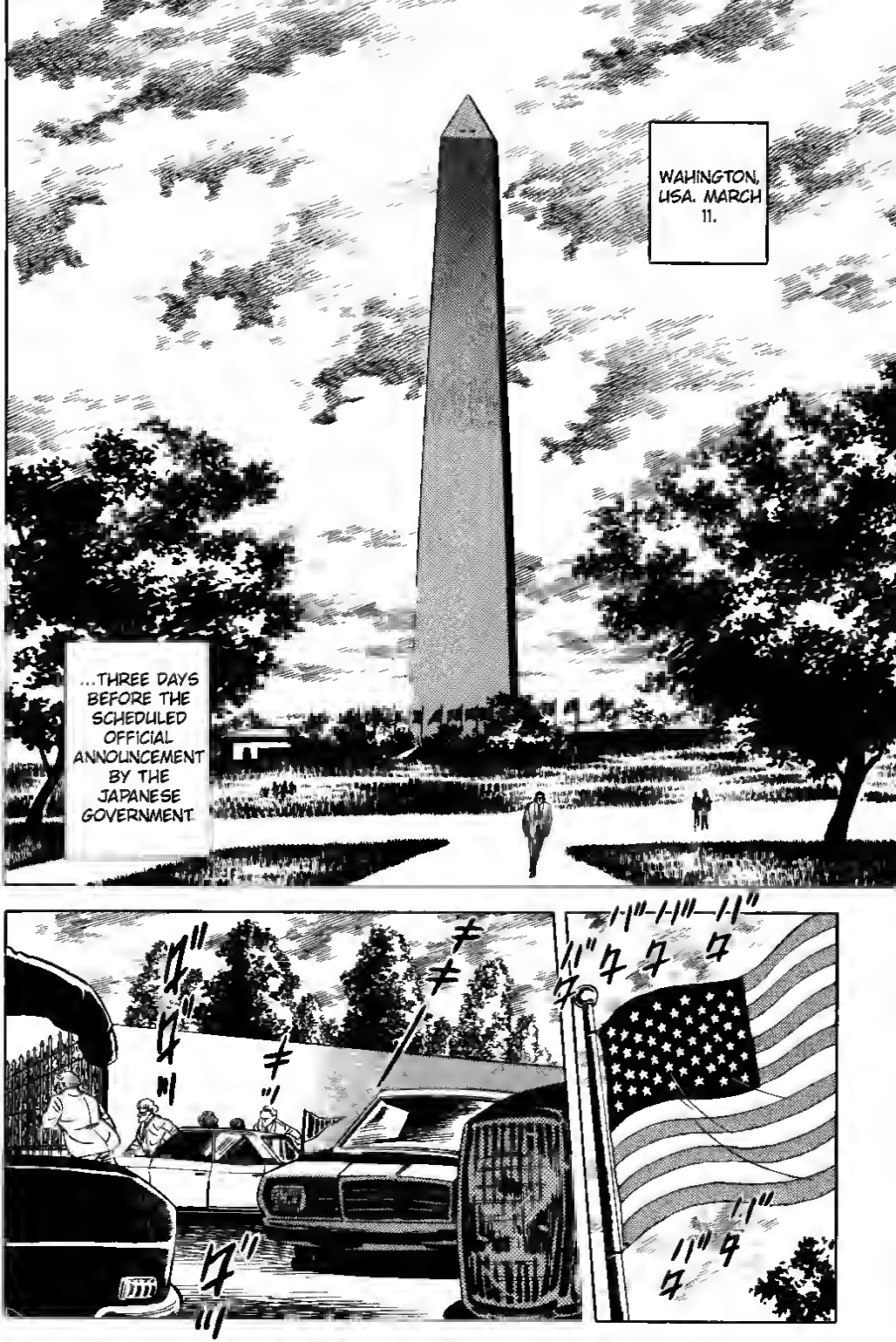
THE STOCK MARKETS IN OSAKA AND TOKYO HAVE CLOSED EARLY.
IT WAS INEVITABLE, WHAT WITH THE DOW AVERAGE DROPPING 2000 YEN AND SIGNS OF AN IMPENDING CRASH...

...AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOOK INTO IT.
...I REALLY WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO LEAKED THE NEWS...


I'M GETTING TIRED OF HAVING TO FEND OFF ALL SORT OF QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE DIET.
EVEN THE EXPRESSIONS OF THE REPORTERS WHO ARE CHASING US AROUND WERE DIFFERENT...
MY OFFICE HAS BEEN FLOODED WITH CALLS!

A MEETING OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH A BIPARTISAN COMMISSION.
AS LONG AS NO ANNOUNCEMENTS COME FROM ABROAD...
...MAYBE WE SHOULD POSTPONE THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ANOTHER WEEK...
...IN ORDER TO GIVE MORE TIME TO LEAVE TO THOSE WHO CAN LEAVE BY THEIR OWN MEANS...
BUT ONE OR TWO WEEKS WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE, CHAIRMAN!
BESIDES, ONLY THE RICH HAVE THE MEANS TO LEAVE! WHAT ABOUT ORDINARY CITIZENS?
LET'S MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT NOW AND PROCEED WITH A CONTROLLED EVACUATION!
PEOPLE WILL KEEP ON LEAVING EVEN AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT...
WE MUST MOVE UP THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND TAKE EMERGENCY MEASURES TO PREVENT CHAOS FROM SPREADING!
THE SOONER THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE BETTER! PEOPLE ARE GETTING RESTLESS AND SCARED... THEY EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT TO DO SOMETHING.
I'M TOLD THAT INTRODUCTORY BOOKS ON EARTHQUAKES AND GEOLOGY ARE FLYING OFF THE SHELVES IN EVERY BOOKSTORE IN THE COUNTRY...
...NO ONE DOUBTS ANYMORE THAT SOMETHING BIG IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN.

IN NEW YORK, LONDON AND PARIS... THEY'RE ALL LOSING SLEEP TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT JAPAN IS UP TO.
AND YOU CAN BE SURE THAT EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MATTER.
...THE ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MOVED UP TWO DAYS.
AND THERE'S A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THE ANNOUNCE-MENT WILL BE MOVED UP AN EXTRA 24 HOURS.
CONSIDERING THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE DECISION SEEMS INEVITABLE...
IS THAT FINAL?
THE... AMERICAN GEODETIC SOCIETY?
ACCORDING TO THAT REPORT, THE AMERICAN GEODETIC SOCIETY IN WASHINGTON HAS JUST FOUND OUT "SOMETHING"...
SOME OF THE PROPOSALS WILL HAVE TO BE SCRAPPED ...
WE'LL HAVE TO CONVENE AN EARLY SESSION OF THE DIET, THEN.

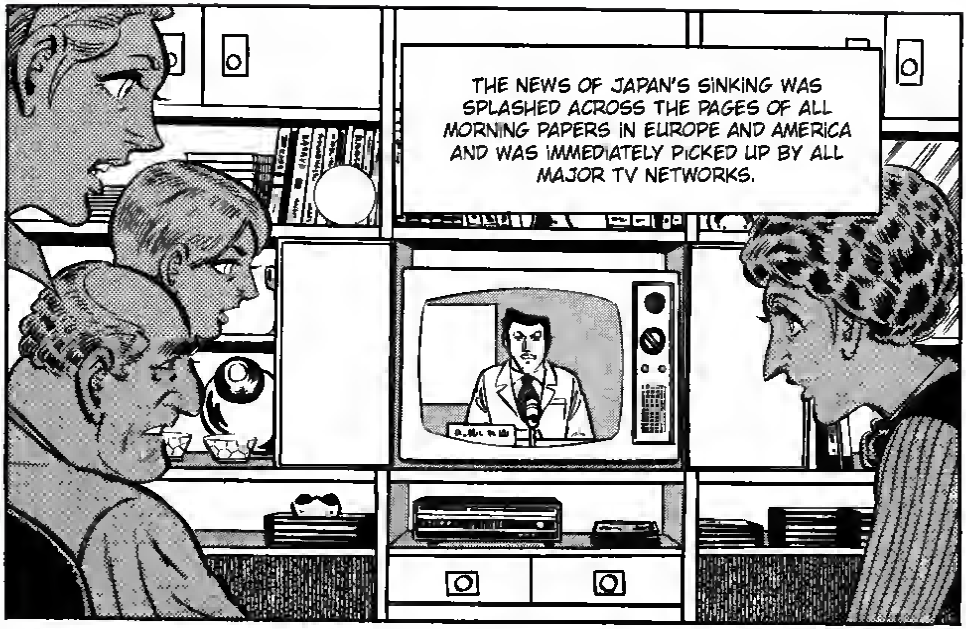

WAHINGTON, USA. MARCH 11.
...THREE DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

...BLAH... BLAH...
...WHISPER... WHISPER...
...BUZZ... BUZZ...
DR. EUGENE COX!
...POINT TO THE INCREASINGLY HIGH CHANCE THAT WITHIN ONE YEAR A MAJOR ALTERATION OF THE EARTH'S CRUST, ON A SCALE NEVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED BY MAN, WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FAR EAST...
ALL THE DATA COLLECTED OVER THE LAST MONTHS BY SATELLITES AND SURVEY SHIPS...

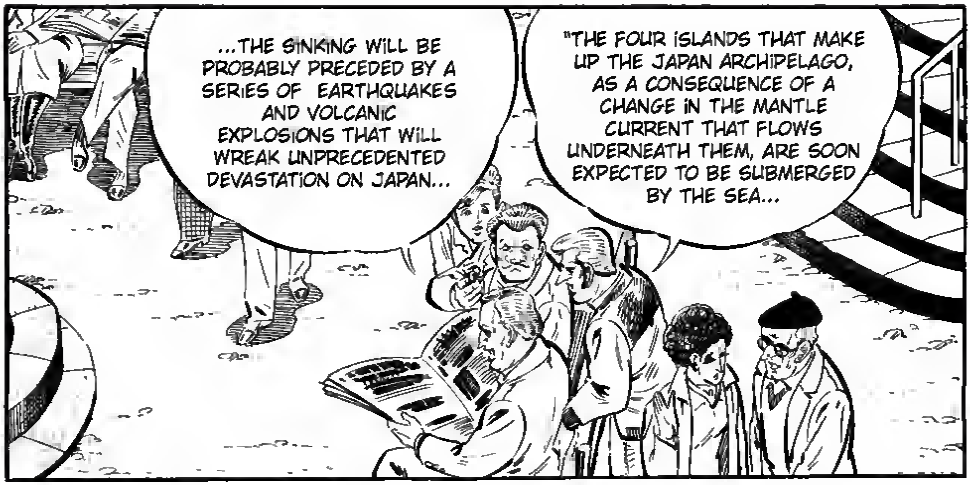
BUT... BUT... ISN'T THAT... THE WHOLE AREA OF JAPAN?
...OF THIS ALTERATION WILL BE THE AREA COMPRISED BETWEEN LONGITUDE 130° - 145°E AND LATITUDE 30°-45°N...
THE CENTRE ...
...ON WHAT SCALE?
...WHAT KIND OF ALTERATION, DR. COX?
...THE GEOLOGICALLY UNIQUE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO AND THE PORTION OF THE MANTLE BENEATH IT.
YES, THE FOCAL POINT OF THE ALTERATION WILL BE...
...WHAT A SCOOP!
YOU MEAN... J-JAPAN WILL...
...A-ATLANTIS...?!
...IT DOES REMIND ME OF THE LEGEND OF ATLANTIS...
WE DON'T KNOW FOR A FACT BUT...

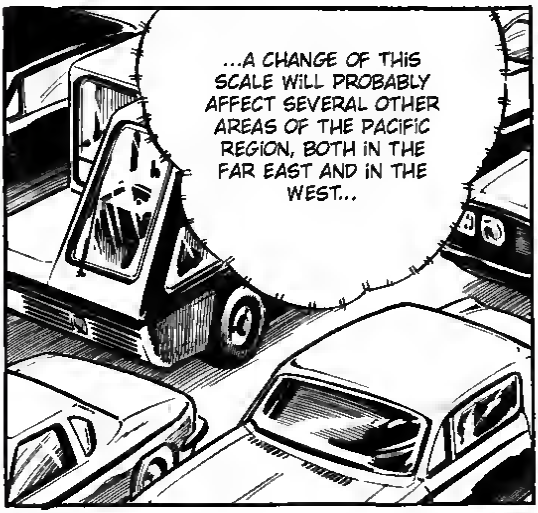
MAJOR EARTH'S CRUST CHANGE PREDICTED IN THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO! "IS JAPAN THE NEXT ATLANTIS?"
I WANT A NEW FRONT PAGE...!
ARE WE STILL ON TIME FOR THE LATEST EDITION?
S-SERIOUSLY?
W-WHAT...?! THE DAY OF JAPAN'S... DESTRUCTION?
"THE DAY OF JAPAN'S DESTRUCTION DRAWS NEAR!"
I ALREADY HAVE A HEADLINE:

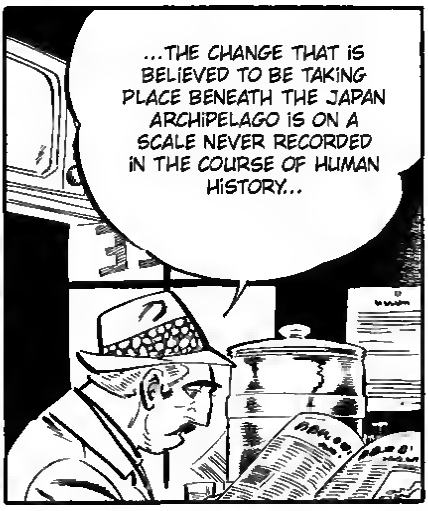
"WILL JAPAN SINK?"
"EARTH'S CRUST CHANGE PREDICTED! DAY OF JAPAN'S DESTRUCTION DRAWS NEAR!"

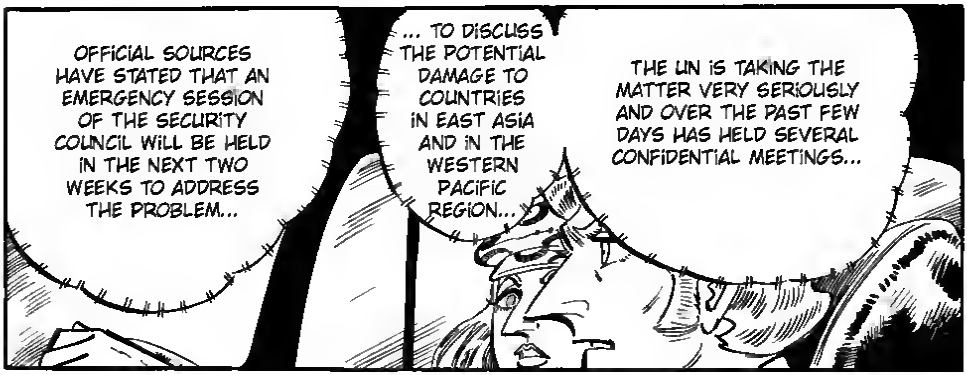

THE NEWS OF JAPAN'S SINKING WAS SPLASHED ACROSS THE PAGES OF ALL MORNING PAPERS IN EUROPE AND AMERICA AND WAS IMMEDIATELY PICKED UP BY ALL MAJOR TV NETWORKS.

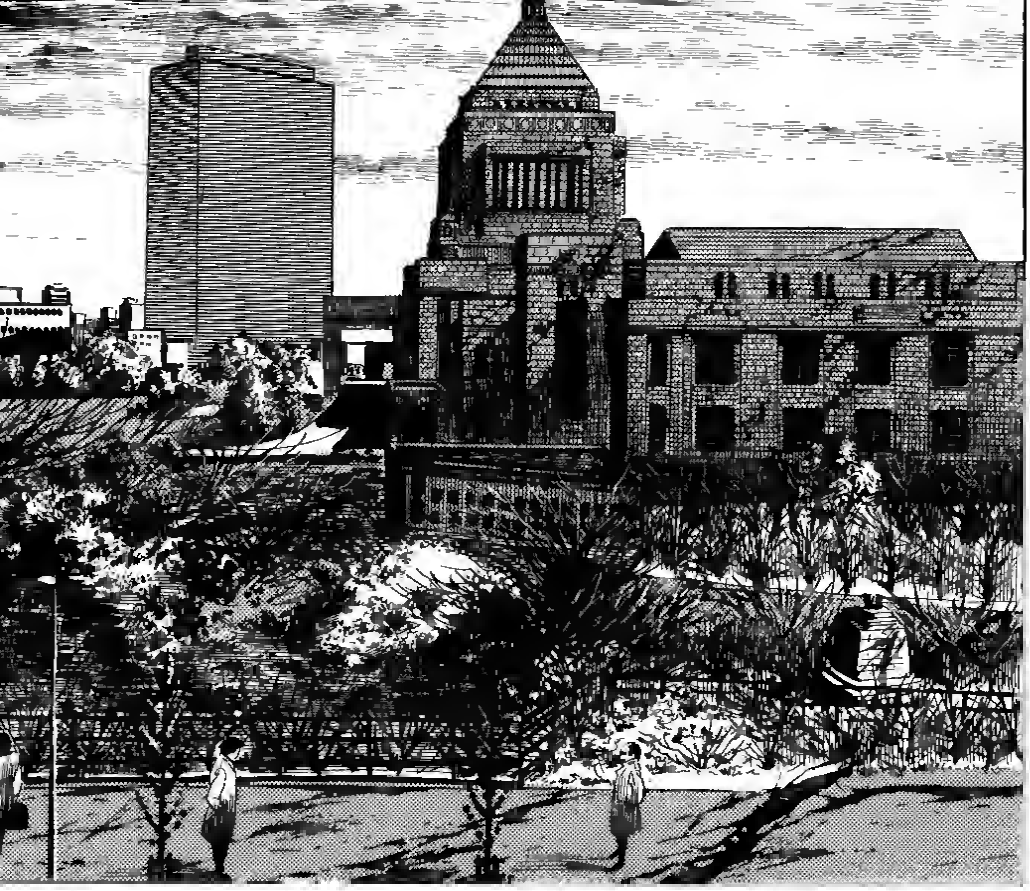
THE PARIS-BASED AFP'S ARTICLE QUOTED THE REPORT OF THE AMERICAN GEODETIC SOCIETY AND EXPANDED IT TO INCLUDE DIAGRAMS AND REFERENCES TO CURRENT THEORIES.


...THE SINKING WILL BE PROBABLY PRECEDED BY A SERIES OF EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANIC EXPLOSIONS THAT WILL WREAK UNPRECEDENTED DEVASTATION ON JAPAN...
"THE FOUR ISLANDS THAT MAKE UP THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A CHANGE IN THE MANTLE CURRENT THAT FLOWS UNDERNEATH THEM, ARE SOON EXPECTED TO BE SUBMERGED BY THE SEA...


...A CHANGE OF THIS SCALE WILL PROBABLY AFFECT SEVERAL OTHER AREAS OF THE PACIFIC REGION, BOTH IN THE FAR EAST AND IN THE WEST...


...THE CHANGE THAT IS BELIEVED TO BE TAKING PLACE BENEATH THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO IS ON A SCALE NEVER RECORDED IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN HISTORY...


OFFICIAL SOURCES HAVE STATED THAT AN EMERGENCY SESSION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL BE HELD IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM...
... TO DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO COUNTRIES IN EAST ASIA AND IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION...
THE UN IS TAKING THE MATTER VERY SERIOUSLY AND OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS HAS HELD SEVERAL CONFIDENTIAL MEETINGS...



...THEY ANNOUNCED A SPECIAL BROADCAST ON ALL RADIO AND TV NETWORKS FROM 1 P.M.....
...WHAT WILL IT BE?
I HEARD IT'S AN ADDRESS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER ...

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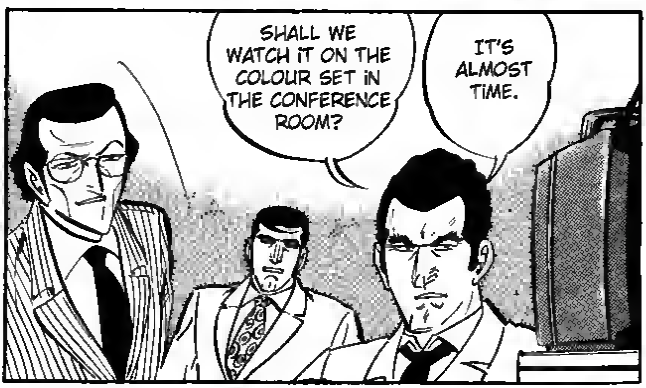
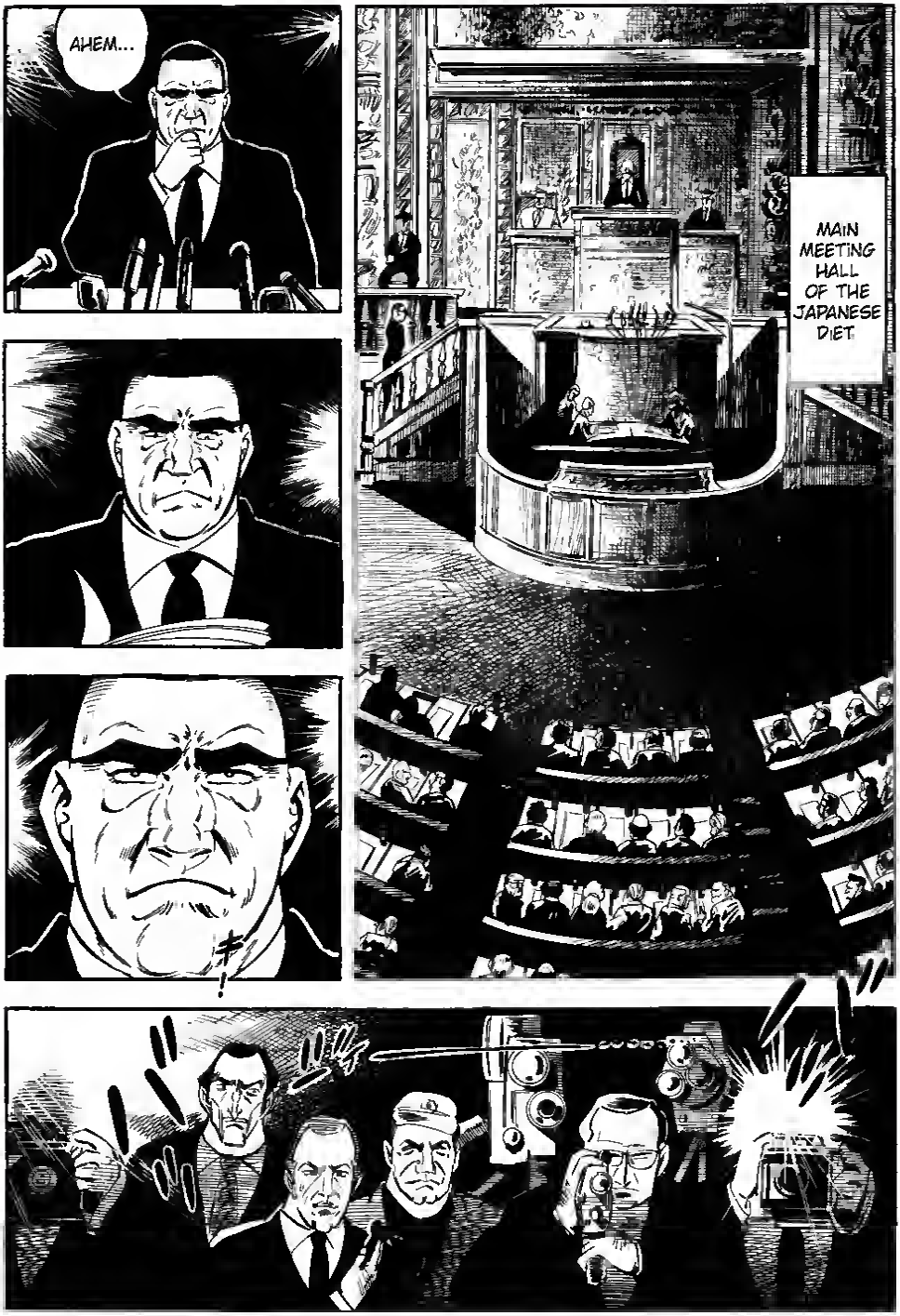
ALL THE NETWORKS WILL CARRY THE SPECIAL PROGRAM.
IT MUST BE A VERY SERIOUS MATTER...
...THE PRIME MINISTER? WHAT WILL HE SAY?
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A BREAK FROM WORK TO WATCH IT, THEN...
I CAN'T WAIT... THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME...
IT'S ALMOST TIME...
TURN IT ON!
EVERY ROOM WITH A TV IN THIS BUILDING IS JAM-PACKED WITH PEOPLE.
LOOK WHAT I GOT!

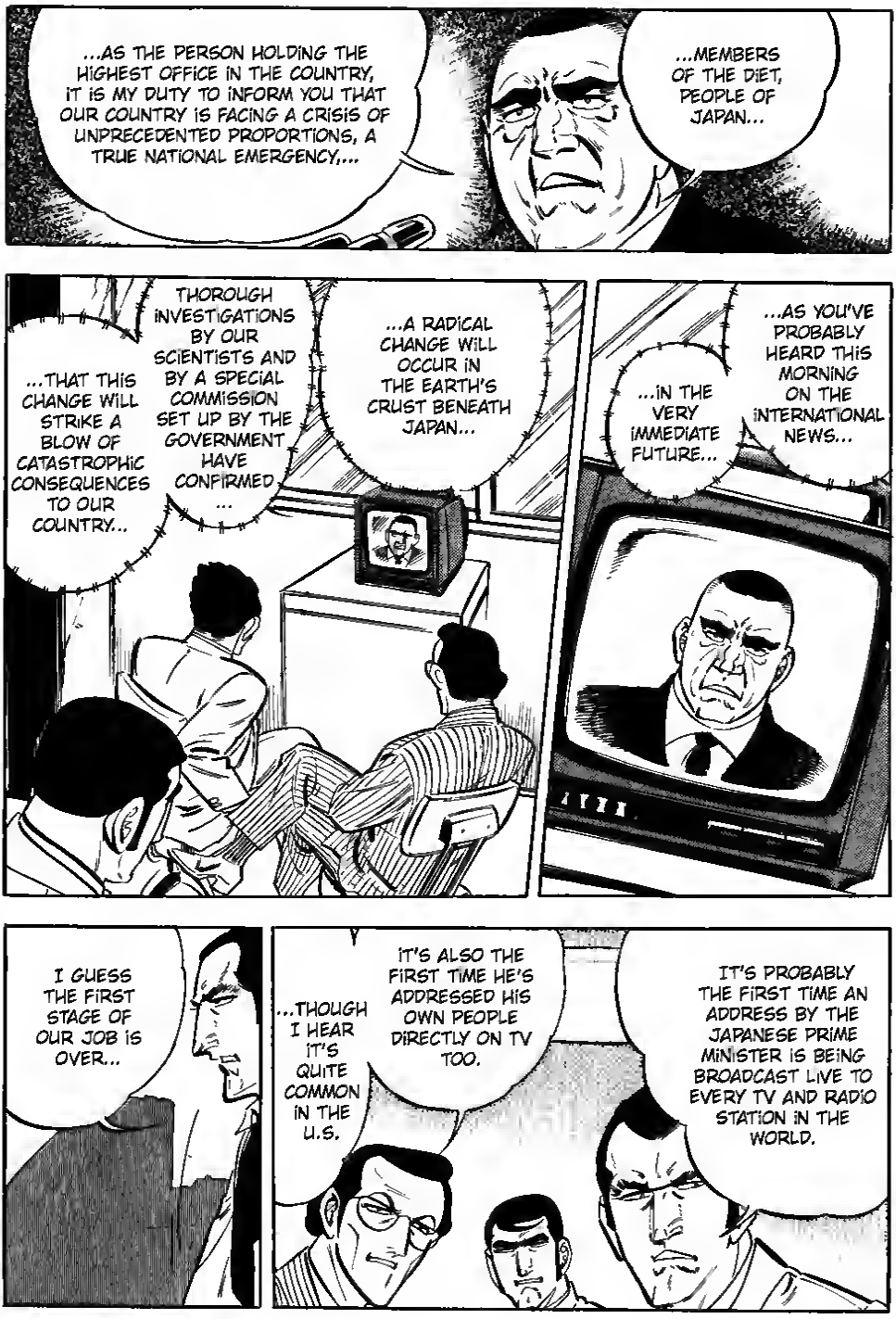
...
THE PHONE WON'T RING JUST BECAUSE YOU KEEP STARING AT IT...
JUST RELAX, WILL YOU?

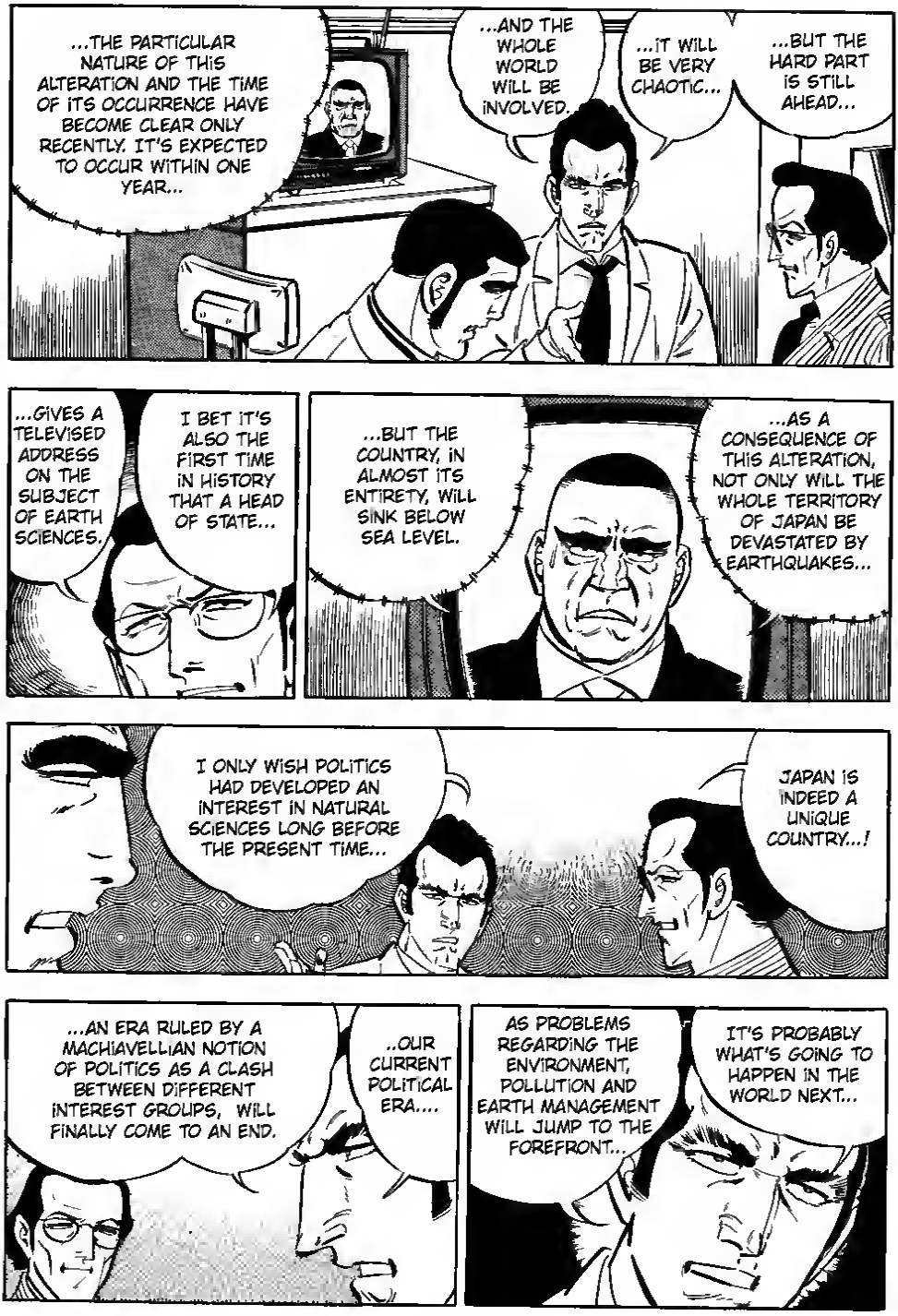
...

NO, I'LL WATCH IT HERE.


SHALL WE WATCH IT ON THE COLOUR SET IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM?
IT'S ALMOST TIME.


AHEM...
MAIN MEETING HALL OF THE JAPANESE DIET

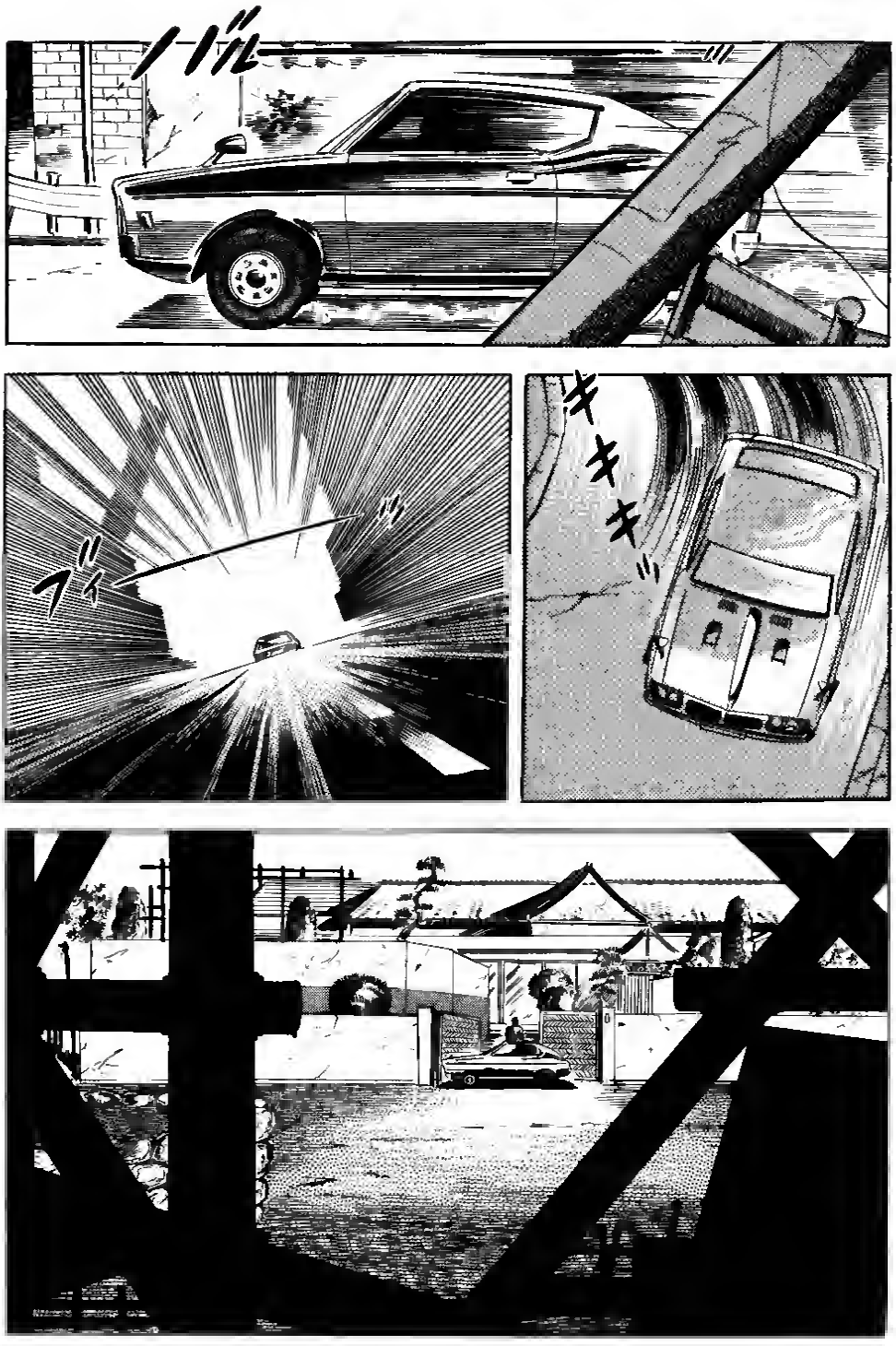

...AS THE PERSON HOLDING THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE COUNTRY, IT IS MY DUTY TO INFORM YOU THAT OUR COUNTRY IS FACING A CRISIS OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS, A TRUE NATIONAL EMERGENCY,...
...MEMBERS OF THE DIET, PEOPLE OF JAPAN...
...THAT THIS CHANGE WILL STRIKE A BLOW OF CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES TO OUR COUNTRY...
THOROUGH INVESTIGATIONS BY OUR SCIENTISTS AND BY A SPECIAL COMMISSION SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT HAVE CONFIRMED ...
...A RADICAL CHANGE WILL OCCUR IN THE EARTH'S CRUST BENEATH JAPAN...
...IN THE VERY IMMEDIATE FUTURE...
...AS YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD THIS MORNING ON THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS...
I GUESS THE FIRST STAGE OF OUR JOB IS OVER...
...THOUGH I HEAR IT'S QUITE COMMON IN THE U.S.
IT'S ALSO THE FIRST TIME HE'S ADDRESSED HIS OWN PEOPLE DIRECTLY ON TV TOO.
IT'S PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME AN ADDRESS BY THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER IS BEING BROADCAST LIVE TO EVERY TV AND RADIO STATION IN THE WORLD.


...THE PARTICULAR NATURE OF THIS ALTERATION AND THE TIME OF ITS OCCURRENCE HAVE BECOME CLEAR ONLY RECENTLY. IT'S EXPECTED TO OCCUR WITHIN ONE YEAR...
...AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE INVOLVED.
...IT WILL BE VERY CHAOTIC...
...BUT THE HARD PART IS STILL AHEAD...
...GIVES A TELEVISED ADDRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF EARTH SCIENCES.
I BET IT'S ALSO THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY THAT A HEAD OF STATE...
...BUT THE COUNTRY, IN ALMOST ITS ENTIRETY, WILL SINK BELOW SEA LEVEL.
...AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS ALTERATION, NOT ONLY WILL THE WHOLE TERRITORY OF JAPAN BE DEVASTATED BY EARTHQUAKES...
I ONLY WISH POLITICS HAD DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN NATURAL SCIENCES LONG BEFORE THE PRESENT TIME...
JAPAN IS INDEED A UNIQUE COUNTRY...!
...AN ERA RULED BY A MACHIAVELLIAN NOTION OF POLITICS AS A CLASH BETWEEN DIFFERENT INTEREST GROUPS, WILL FINALLY COME TO AN END.
..OUR CURRENT POLITICAL ERA....
AS PROBLEMS REGARDING THE ENVIRONMENT, POLLUTION AND EARTH MANAGEMENT WILL JUMP TO THE FOREFRONT...
IT'S PROBABLY WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE WORLD NEXT...

R.R.R.R...
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF FROM NOW ON A CERTAIN DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE IN HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES WILL BE SEEN AS A NECESSARY REQUIREMENT FOR POLITICIANS..
WHO KNOWS...?
HELLO...?
...I SEE...
WHAT...?
...IT'S THE OBSERVATION STATION ON MT. FUJI.
IT'S FOR YOU, NAKATA ...
...HAS IT ERUPTED ?
THE SITUATION ON MT. FUJI HAS TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE...

...
...IN SEVERAL SPOTS BELOW THE HOEI CRATER, WHERE SMALL ERUPTIONS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED, THE SMOKE HAS THICKENED...
IT'S ON THE VERGE...
CAN I BORROW YOUR CAR AGAIN, NAKATA?
YES, SURE.
...BUT NOW IT'S REPORTED TO BE RISING MUCH FASTER...
UNTIL NOW THE GROUND HAD BEEN RISING TWO CM A DAY IN TONOSAWA AND FIVE CM A DAY NORTH OF MT. ASHITAKA...

A-6
A-7
... MT. FUJI...?
...I'VE REQUESTED THE COOPERATION OF ALL PARTIES. AND THEY, FULLY AWARE OF THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION, HAVE AGREED TO FORM A BIPARTISAN COMMISSION...
...AS THE PERSON WHOSE FOREMOST DUTY IS TO CONFRONT IT...
...IN THE FACE OF A NATURAL CATASTROPHE UNLIKE ANY OTHER IN THE HISTORY OF ANY COUNTRY...
...AND PLEDGED TO HELP OUR PEOPLE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE...
...THE UNITED NATIONS, TOGETHER WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF EVERY COUNTRY, HAVE EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH OUR PLIGHT...
...HAS REQUESTED THE UNITED NATIONS AND ALL THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD TO JOIN US IN DRAFTING A PLAN FOR THE RESCUE OF OUR COUNTRYMEN.
...SAVE THE LIVES AND THE RESOURCES OF EVERY CITIZEN FROM THE CATASTROPHE...
FURTHER-MORE, THE GOVERNMENT, IN ORDER TO...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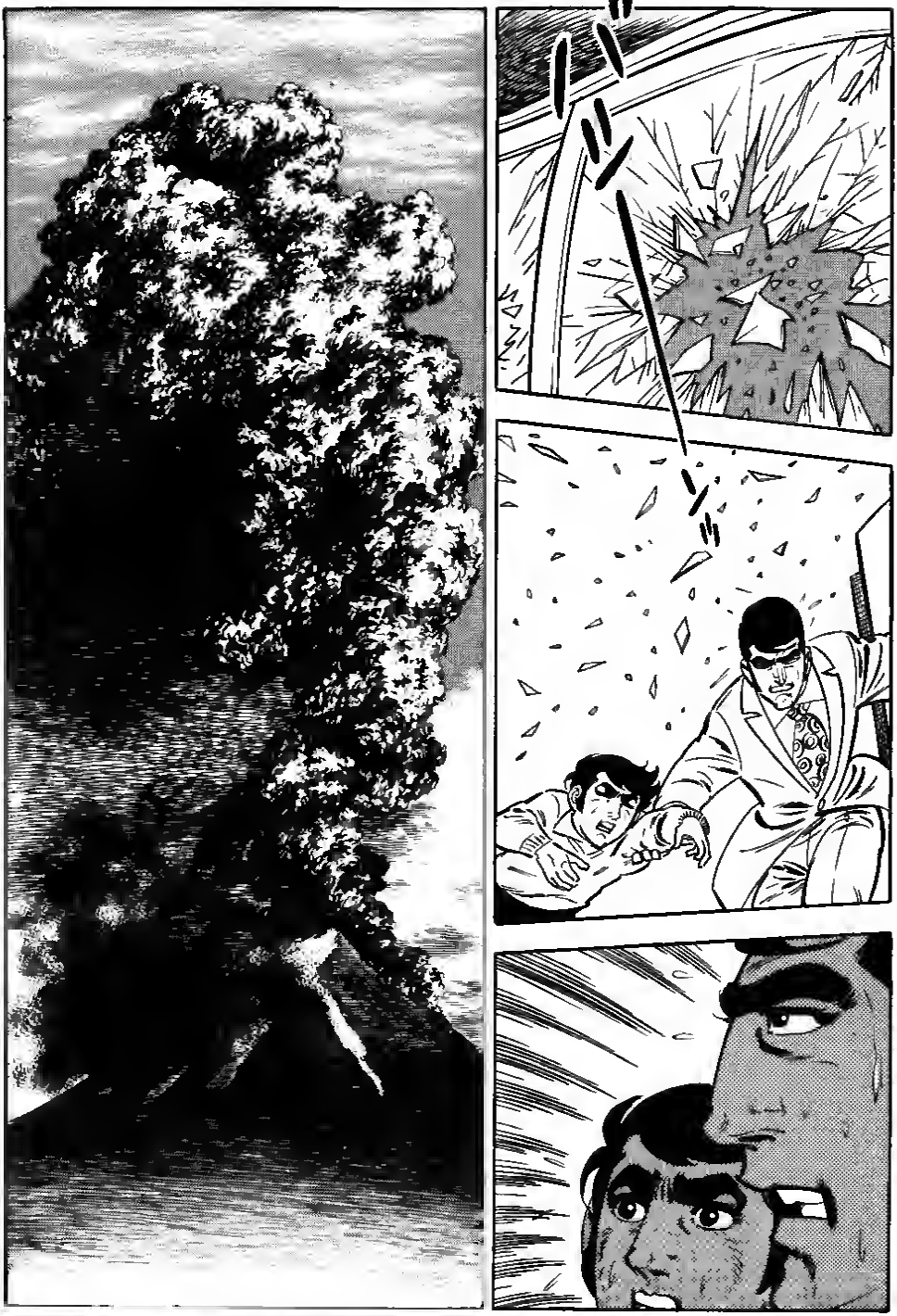
...
...SHE'S ALL ALONE AND...
NO... I'M GETTING A BIT WORRIED...
...SHE HASN'T BEEN IN TOUCH?
...WHAT ...?
YES.
DO YOU KNOW THE HOUSE OF THE RELATIVES SHE WENT TO VISIT?
LET'S GO!
GET INSIDE THE CAR, TORU!
A QUAKE...!
ズズ
WAHHH!



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NOOOO!
HEEEELP!
GHAAA!
YAAAW-WWHHH!

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ICHIROOO! WHERE ARE YOU?
HELP!
OUCH! IT'S... HOT!

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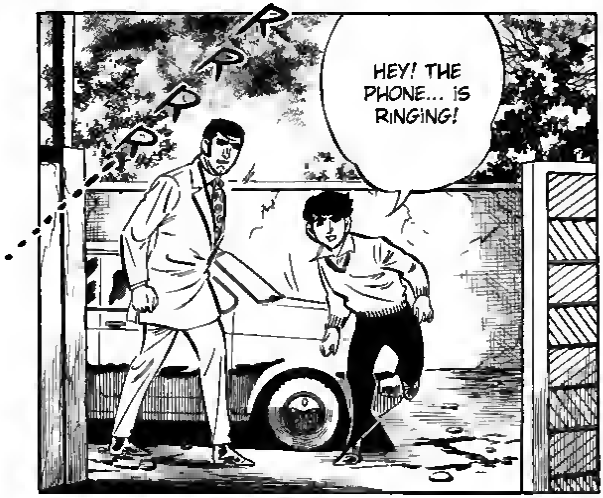
NOOOOO!
MUMMYYY!

...GHAAA!
...OOOW-WWHH!
...DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND!
HELP!
...

東京
LOOK! THE SKY... IS BLACK WITH ASHES!


HEY! THE PHONE... IS RINGING!

NO POINT... IN TAKING THE CAR...

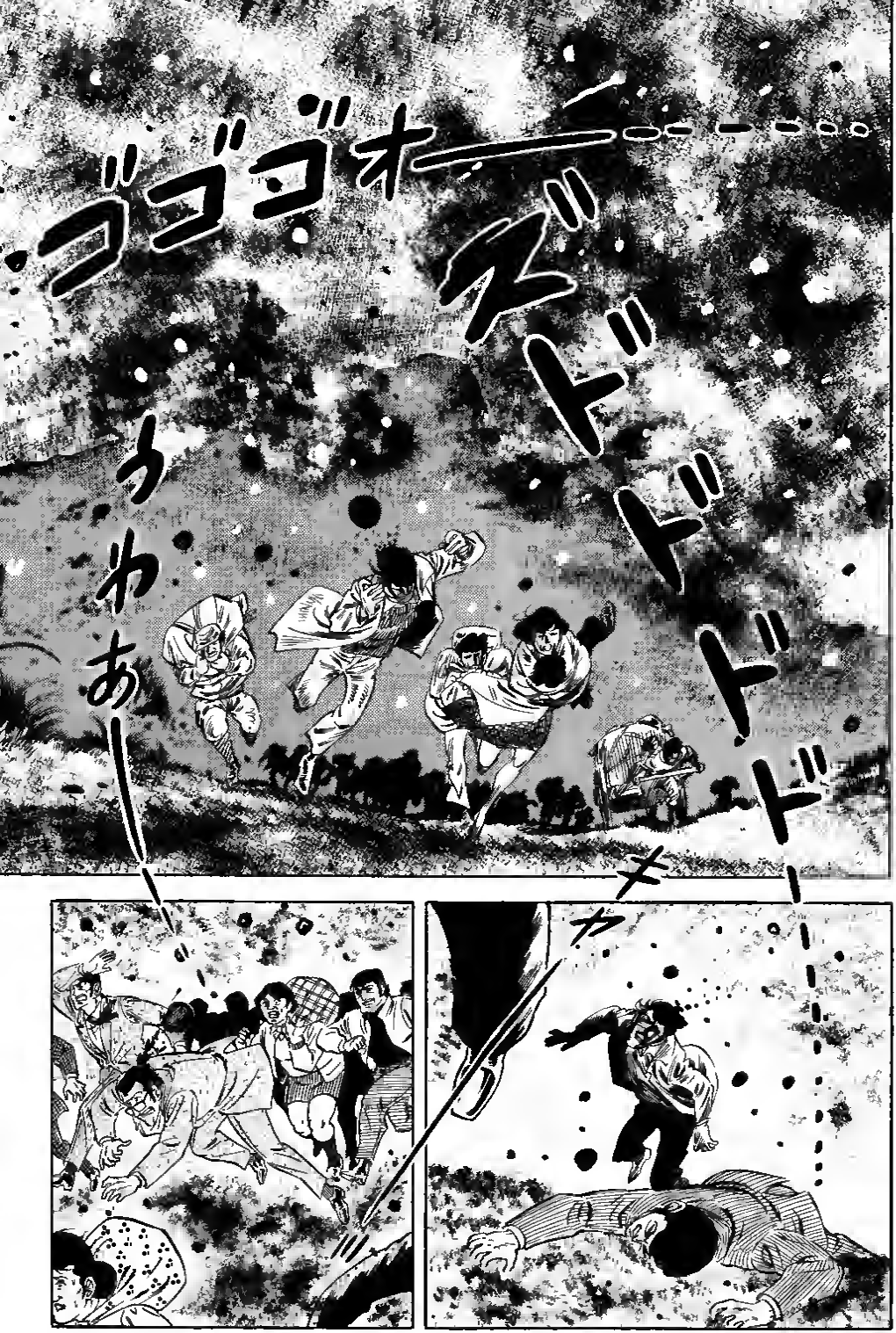
....IS IT YOU, DEAR? HELLO?
HELLO?
WHERE ARE YOU?
...ONO-DERA HERE!
HELLO!
...UH? MANAZURU ROAD...?
...I'M... OFF MANAZURU ROAD... TRAFFIC'S BLOCKED...
...HELLO? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
...SO, MY FELLOW JAPANESE COUNTRY-MEN...

OUTSIDE... IT'S ALL WHITE! ...ASHES ARE PILING UP... BURNING STONES FALLING FROM THE SKY...
...HOT ASHES... EVERYWHERE...
...TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE! GIVE ME DIRECTIONS!
...AFTER I GOT HERE... THE ERUPTION...
...FALLING ROCKS AND ASHES... EVERY-WHERE ON THE ROAD...
HELLO...? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
...
...HELLO? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
HELLO? REIKO...? HELLO...?
I'M GOING THERE...
...
...REIKO... WILL SHE BE OKAY?
...IT'S NO GOOD! I CAN'T HEAR A DAMN THING!
ガチャ!!

NO, WAIT HERE. WE CAN'T GO BY CAR...
I'M COMING WITH YOU, ONO-DERA!
PLEASE WAIT HERE A SECOND.
...I ASK FOR EVERYONE'S COOPERATION IN MAINTAINING ORDER AND I GUARANTEE YOU THAT...
...REMAIN CALM...
...TO SAVE THE LIFE AND THE POSSESSIONS OF EVERY JAPANESE...
...THE GOVERNMENT WILL SPARE NO EFFORT...
ONODERA
...DIDN'T KNOW YOUR ADDRESS...
...SHE'D MEANT TO SEND YOU THIS BUT...
ONODERA

NO PROBLEM!
...I'M WORRIED ABOUT MY HOUSE, I THINK I'LL GO HAVE A LOOK...
LISTEN, TORU...
...
OH! ...NOT AGAIN!
...
...I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
...IT'S RAINING ASHES!

... OUTSIDE... IT'S ALL WHITE! ...ASHES ARE PILING UP.. BURNING STONES FALLING FROM THE SKY...
...HOT ASHES... EVERYWHERE...
I GOT IT! THE BASE IN ICHIGA-YA...!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STOP, I SAID!
STOP!
WHAT...? ARE YOU INSANE?
THE HELICOPTER! LET ME USE THE HELICOPTER!
I'M ONODERA... WITH D-1!
UNGHHHH!

LET ME GET ON THE HELI-COPTER!

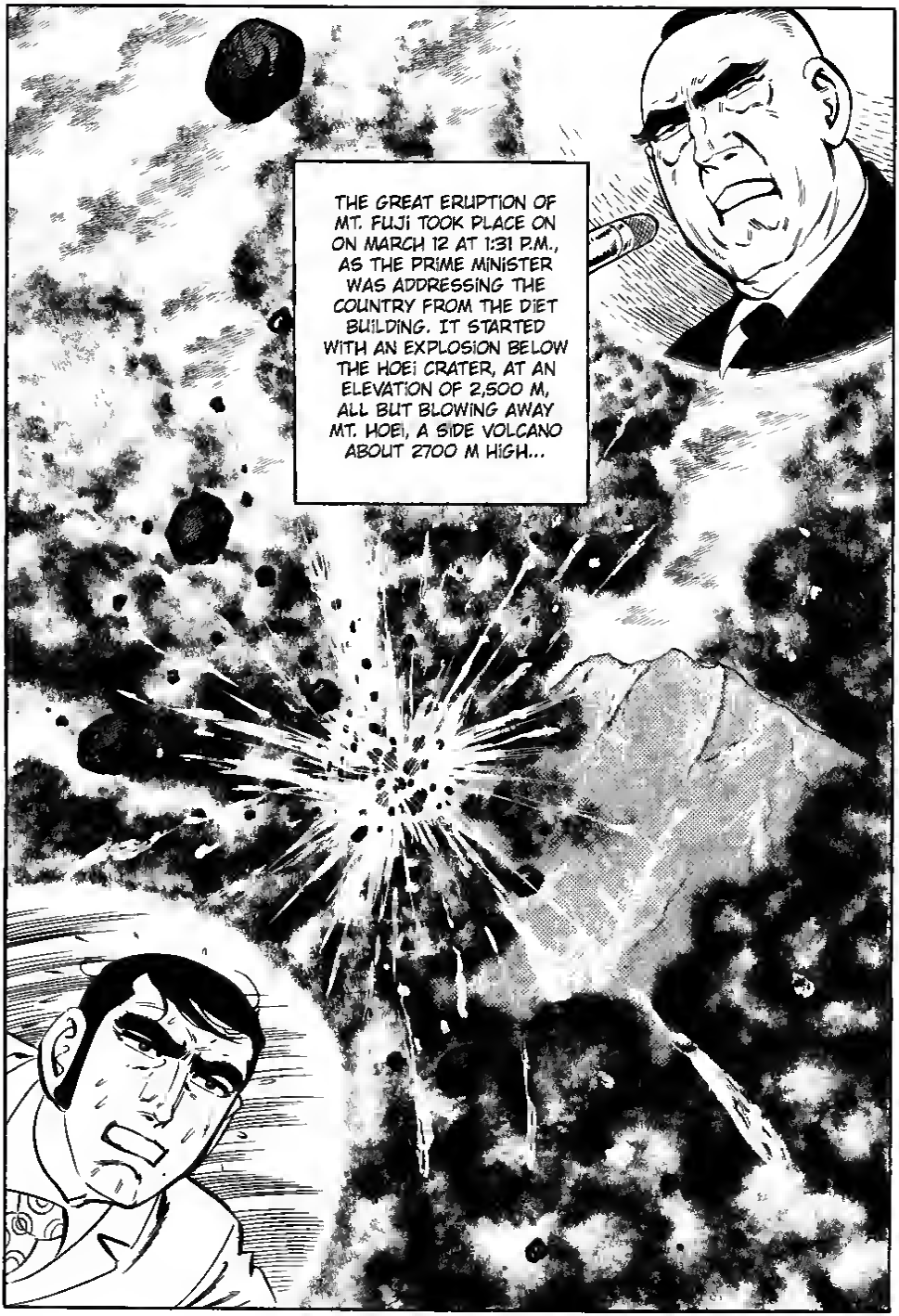
I... I'M A SUBMARINE PILOT.. WITH THE D-1 TEAM!

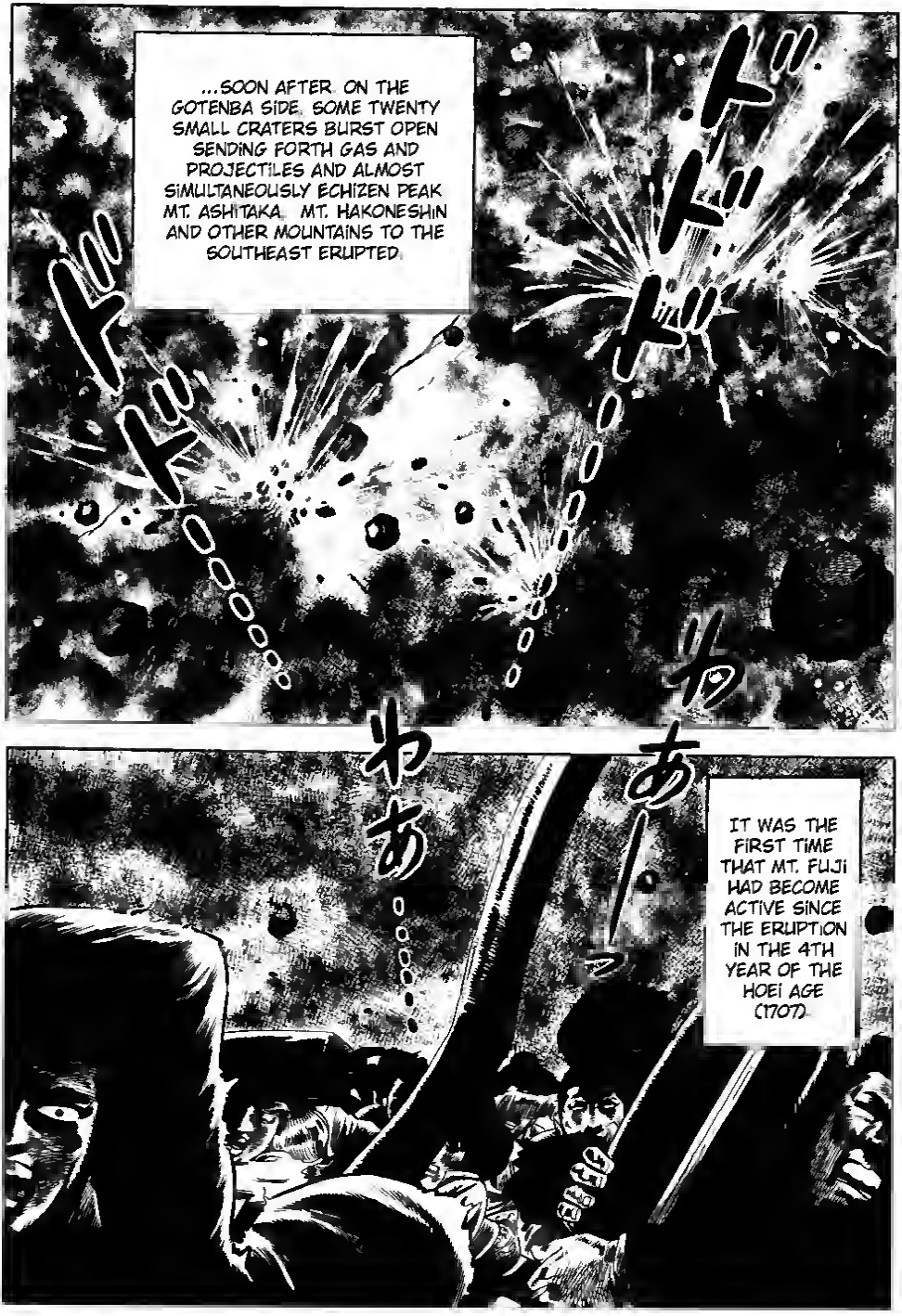
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE! YOU DON'T HAVE CLEARANCE!

...HE'S CRAZY!

WHO ARE YOU...?

...
DAMN!


THE GREAT ERUPTION OF MT. FUJI TOOK PLACE ON ON MARCH 12 AT 1:31 P.M., AS THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ADDRESSING THE COUNTRY FROM THE DIET BUILDING. IT STARTED WITH AN EXPLOSION BELOW THE HOEi CRATER, AT AN ELEVATION OF 2,500 M, ALL BUT BLOWING AWAY MT. HOEi, A SIDE VOLCANO ABOUT 2700 M HIGH...


...SOON AFTER, ON THE GOTENBA SIDE, SOME TWENTY SMALL CRATERS BURST OPEN SENDING FORTH GAS AND PROJECTILES AND ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY ECHIZEN PEAK MT. ASHITAKA, MT. HAKONESHIN AND OTHER MOUNTAINS TO THE SOUTHEAST ERUPTED.
ドドド

THE ERUPTION CONTINUED FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS AND, AFTER A BRIEF LULL, A SECOND HUGE EXPLOSION SHOOK THE MOUNTAIN, OPENING A LARGE CRATER BETWEEN THE SUMMIT AND MT. TAIHO IN THE NORTHERN PART OF YAMANASHI PREFECTURE. FROM HERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 900 YEARS, LARGE QUANTITIES OF LAVA CAME POURING OUT AND FLOWED DOWN THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN.
ズズズ……
ゴゴゴ……

THE LAVA ONCE AGAIN TURNED THE FORESTS INTO A SEA OF FIRE AND, AFTER SWALLOWING A VILLAGE AND A GROUP OF HOTELS NEAR NARUSAWA, FLOWED INTO THE SAI AND MOTOSU LAKES.

THOSE ERUPTIONS, HOWEVER, WERE BUT THE PROLOGUE TO THE HUGE EXPLOSION THAT WAS TO FOLLOW AND THAT WAS SAID TO ECLIPSE EVEN THE FAMOUS ERUPTION OF THE SIXTH YEAR OF THE JOGAN ERA (864).

WAHHHH!
MUMMY!
TAKESHiii! WHERE ARE YOU...?
ARGHH!
QUICK!
OHH!

IT'S GOING OFF... AGAIN!
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ズ"
ズ"

IT'S DANGEROUS OVER THERE!
...HEY! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

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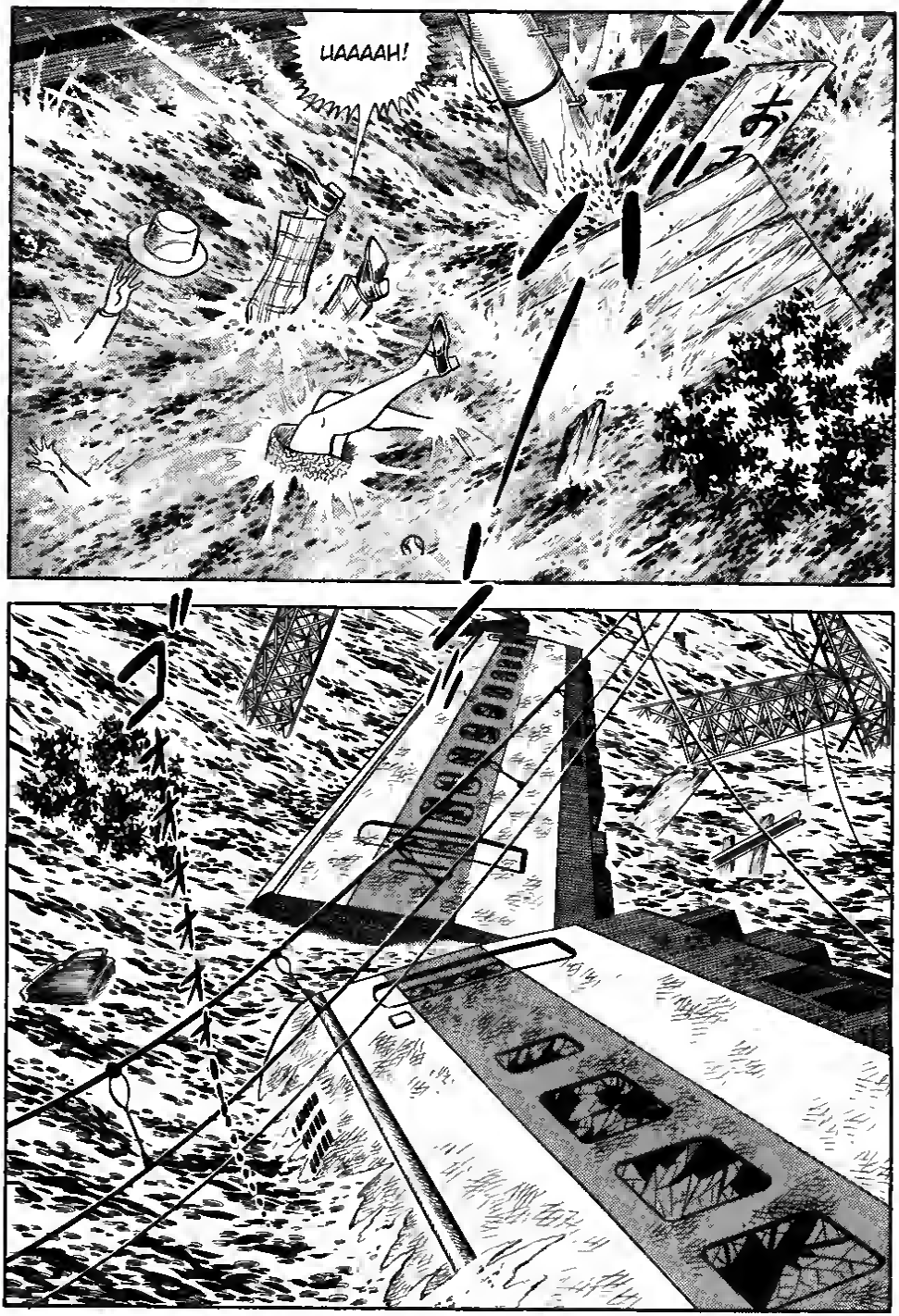
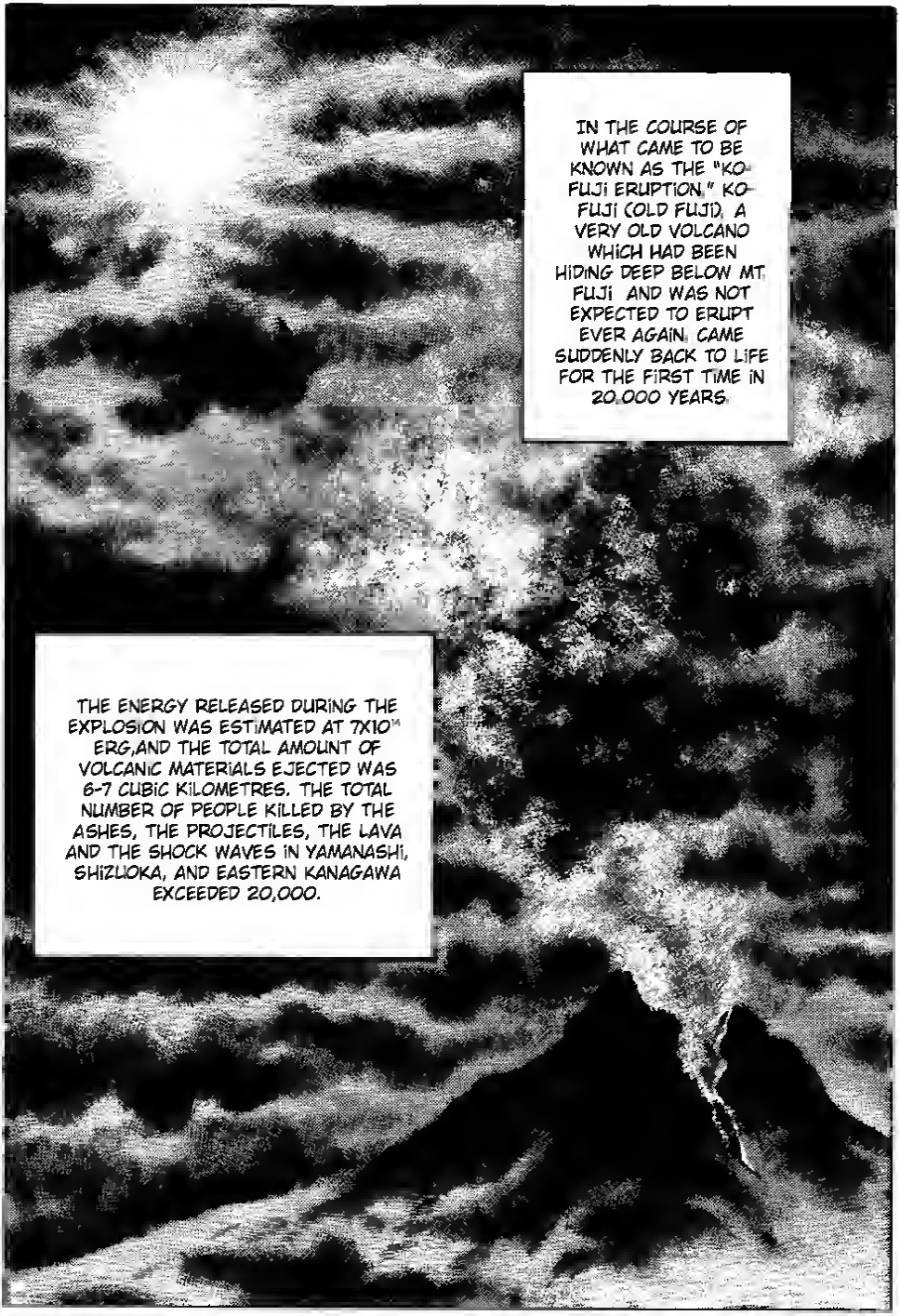
HOTEL
W-WATER!
RUN!
HEEEEELP!


UAAAAH!

YOU CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER! YOU'LL DIE!
LET ME GO!
LET ME GO!
STOP! GO BACK!
ザーッ
...IS UNDER THOSE ASHES!
...A FRIEND OF MINE...
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT! EVERYTHING'S BEEN REDUCED TO ASHES...
LET ME THROUGH!
I TOLD YOU TO LET ME GO!
...
ASHINO LAKE BURST AS A RESULT OF THE LANDSLIDE AND, AFTER DESTROYING ALL THE VILLAGES IN THE VICINITY, IT WASHED AWAY IN A SINGLE INSTANT THE WHOLE TOWN OF ODAWARA.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO...

STOP! GET BACK!
HEY!


IN THE COURSE OF WHAT CAME TO BE KNOWN AS THE "KO-FUJI ERUPTION," KO-FUJI (OLD FUJI), A VERY OLD VOLCANO WHICH HAD BEEN HIDING DEEP BELOW MT. FUJI AND WAS NOT EXPECTED TO ERUPT EVER AGAIN, CAME SUDDENLY BACK TO LIFE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20,000 YEARS.
THE ENERGY RELEASED DURING THE EXPLOSION WAS ESTIMATED AT 7X10^{14} ERG,AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF VOLCANIC MATERIALS EJECTED WAS 6-7 CUBIC KILOMETRES. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE KILLED BY THE ASHES, THE PROJECTILES, THE LAVA AND THE SHOCK WAVES IN YAMANASHI, SHIZUOKA, AND EASTERN KANAGAWA EXCEEDED 20,000.

LET'S GO DOWN, NAKATA...
TOKYO, THREE DAYS AFTER...
I CAN'T BEAR TO SEE MT. FUJI'S... DEFORMED SHAPE...
...IN A WAY... IT WAS THE SYMBOL OF JAPAN, CELEBRATED AND TALKED ABOUT SINCE MANYO TIMES...
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...BUT NOW THERE ARE SIGNS THAT MT. ASAMA MAY BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN SOON...
ON MT. FUJI THINGS SEEM TO HAVE QUIETENED DOWN A LOT...
NO HOPES THERE. ANYTHING ELSE...?
STILL NO ANSWER FROM MT. FUJI OBSERVATION STATION...
...THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT BANK HAS WIDENED ABOUT ONE METRE...
THEN THERE'S THE STRANGE PHENOMENON OF THE FUJIGAWA RIVER 'S CRATER...
THAT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT FUJI'S GREAT ERUPTION WAS SIMPLY THE PRELUDE TO THE CHANGE AHEAD...
...
...I'VE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT ON THE AMOUNT OF ASH FALLEN IN THE AREA...
NAKATA...
...AS A RESULT, THE RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER THE FUJI RIVER CAN NO LONGER BE USED.
...OUR DATA SHOW THAT THE LEFT SIDE OF THE FUJIGAWA RIVER HAS MOVED SEVERAL TENS OF CENTIMETRES TO THE SOUTH AND HAS SUNK ALMOST 30 CM...
...10 TO 20 CM IN TOKYO... AND EVEN A FEW CENTIMETRES ON NARITA AIRPORT'S RUNWAYS...
...TWO METRES IN THE VICINITY OF ODAWARA... ONE AND A HALF IN KOFU...

I HOPE HE WAS ABLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY...
BY THE WAY, I WONDER WHERE ONODERA IS...
...INCREDIBLE...
NARITA IS 140KM AWAY FROM TOKYO...
ドオ
ARE YOU OKAY, SONODA?
WHAT THE...? ASAMA...?

...A RIVER OF LAVA POURING FORTH FROM THE CRATER IS MOVING TO THE EAST TOWARDS ONIOSHIDASHI AT GREAT SPEED...
...RELEASING AN ESTIMATED 4X10 24 ERG OF ENERGY...
... MT. ASAMA HAS JUST ERUPTED...
...DWEEB-DWEEB,,, WARNING...
I REPEAT... TO THE SOUTH OF..
... TO THE SOUTH OF MT. ASAMA, IN THE VICINITY OF MT. HANARE, A NEW CRATER HAS OPENED AND LAVA AND ASH ARE FLOWING FROM THERE IN THE DIRECTION OF KARUIZAWA...
...FURTHER-MORE...
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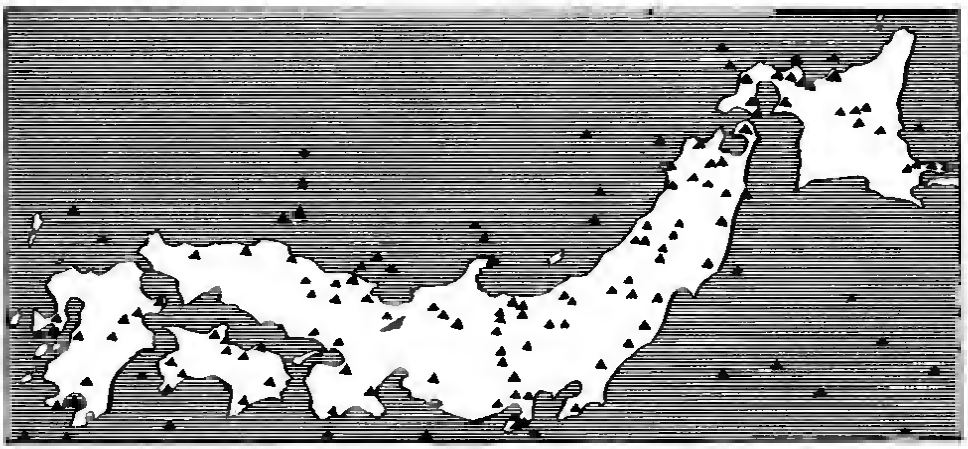
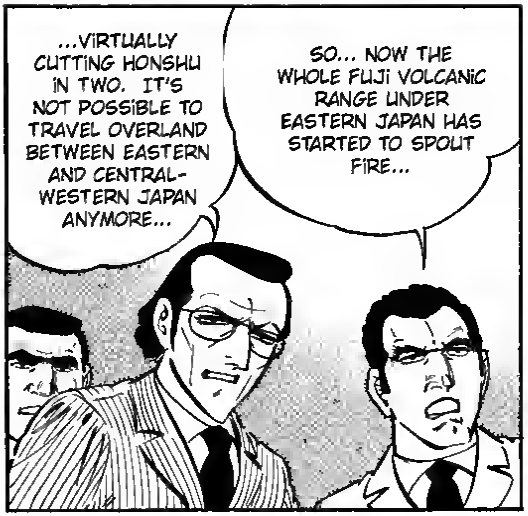
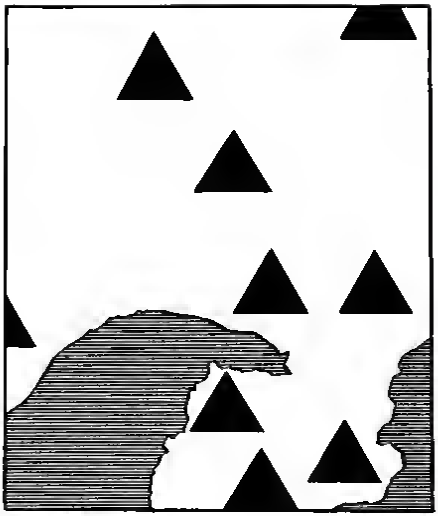
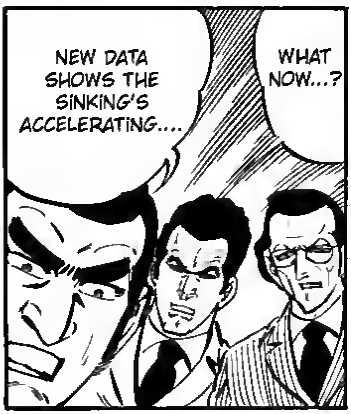
WAHHHH!
...AGHHH!

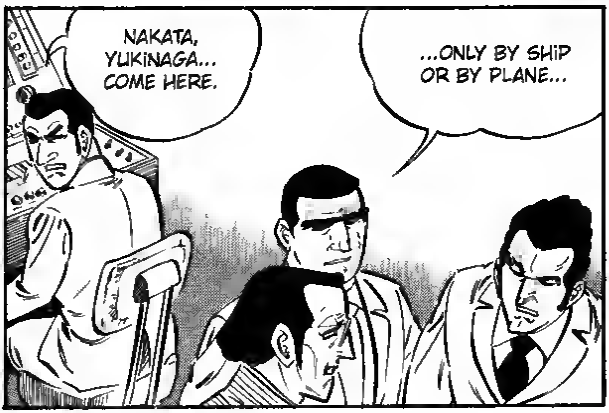
DURING MT. ASAMA'S ERUPTION, WHICH LASTED FOR A FULL WEEK, MT. HOTAKA IN NORTHERN GUNMA PREFECTURE ALSO BECAME ACTIVE.
VAST AMOUNTS OF ASH AND LAVA POURED INTO LAKE DOGEN AND CUT OFF THE UPPER PART OF THE TONE RIVER. DUE TO AN EARTHQUAKE AND THE RESULTING LANDSLIDES, FUJIWARA DAM BROKE AND THE AREA BETWEEN MINAKAMI HOTSPRINGS AND THE OUTSKIRTS OF NUMATA CITY WAS HIT BY A FLASH FLOOD WHICH BLOCKED THE JOETSU TRAIN LINE.
AND FINALLY, SEVERAL VOLCANOES IN NORTHEASTERN JAPAN INCLUDING HIUCHI PEAK TO THE NORTH OF MT. HOTAGA, MT. SHIRANE IN NIKKO, AND OSABI PEAK IN THE NASU PLATEAU, BECAME ACTIVE ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

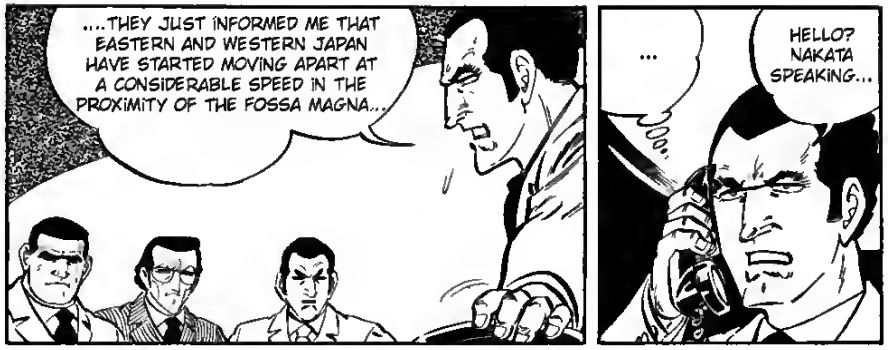


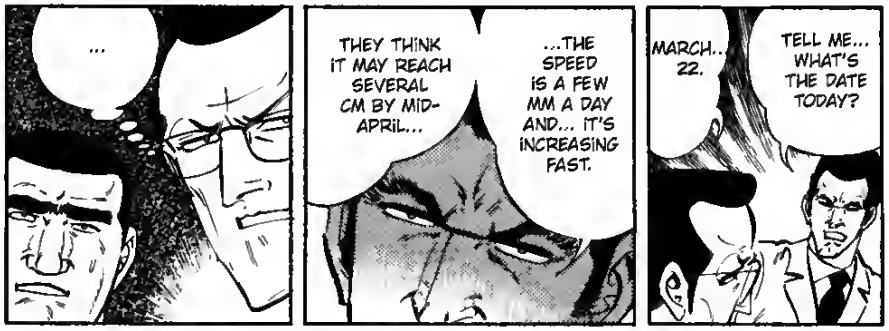

...VIRTUALLY CUTTING HONSHU IN TWO. IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO TRAVEL OVERLAND BETWEEN EASTERN AND CENTRAL-WESTERN JAPAN ANYMORE...
SO... NOW THE WHOLE FUJI VOLCANIC RANGE UNDER EASTERN JAPAN HAS STARTED TO SPOUT FIRE...




NEW DATA SHOWS THE SINKING'S ACCELERATING....
WHAT NOW...?

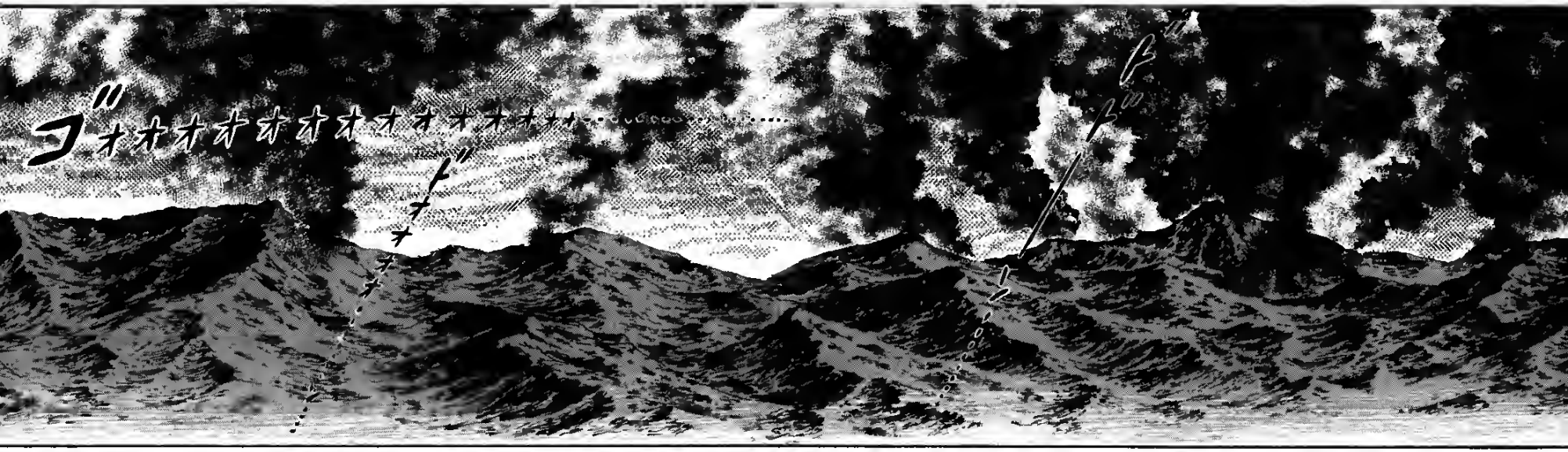

NAKATA, YUKINAGA... COME HERE.
...ONLY BY SHIP OR BY PLANE...


....THEY JUST INFORMED ME THAT EASTERN AND WESTERN JAPAN HAVE STARTED MOVING APART AT A CONSIDERABLE SPEED IN THE PROXIMITY OF THE FOSSA MAGNA...
...
HELLO? NAKATA SPEAKING...


...
THEY THINK IT MAY REACH SEVERAL CM BY MID-APRIL...
...THE SPEED IS A FEW MM A DAY AND... IT'S INCREASING FAST.
MARCH.. 22.
TELL ME... WHAT'S THE DATE TODAY?

...UP TO TEN CM A DAY, ACCORDING TO THE DATA... AND SOME PLACES ARE MOVING SIDEWAYS TO THE SOUTHEAST AT A RATE OF SEVERAL CM A DAY...
...AND EVEN THE TIP OF IZU.
...BOSO PENINSULA, MIURA PENINSULA...
WHERE ?

YOU CAN TAKE THE CALL THERE.
...A CALL FROM D-2'S CHUBU REGION TEAM.
NAKATA...
...EVEN THE INCLINE OF THE GROUND IS CHANGING FAST...
I SEE...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CAUTION

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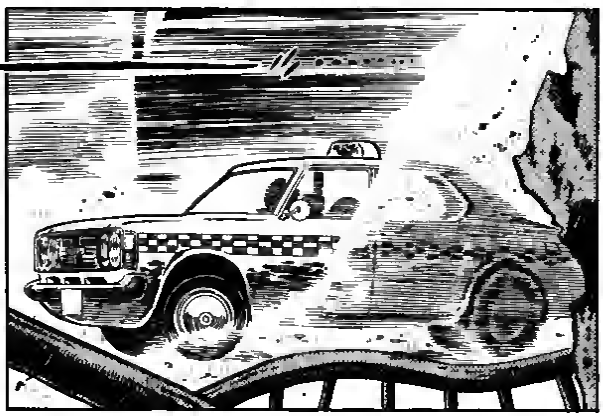

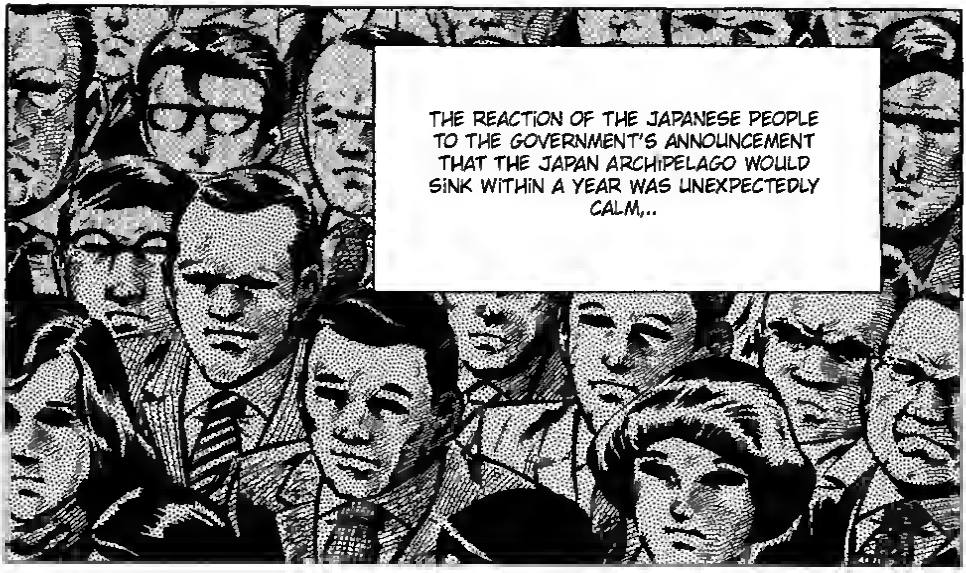
THE REACTION OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE JAPAN ARCHIPELAGO WOULD SINK WITHIN A YEAR WAS UNEXPECTEDLY CALM,..

HOW-EVER ...
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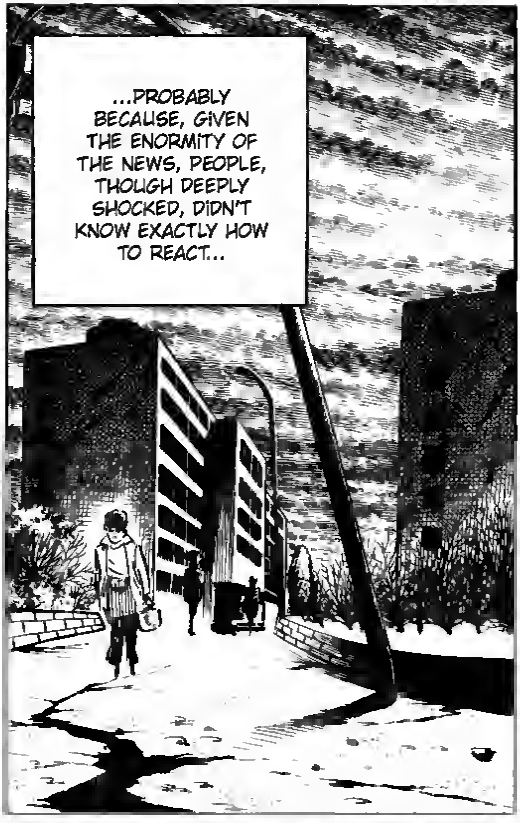

...PROBABLY BECAUSE, GIVEN THE ENORMITY OF THE NEWS, PEOPLE, THOUGH DEEPLY SHOCKED, DIDN'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO REACT...

HOW DID IT GO, MITSUKO?
...
DO WE HAVE ENOUGH FOOD?
IN THREE DAYS...
FROM THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK...
START-ING WHEN?
RATIONS ...?
THEY'LL SOON HAND OUT RATIONS, THOUGH...
...I WENT EVERYWHERE BUT... NO LUCK.
...DIDN'T YOU KNOW THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN?
WHY DIDN'T YOU BUY MORE?
WE STILL HAVE FOUR KILOS OF RICE... ENOUGH FOR FOUR DAYS... BUT ALMOST NO MEAT NOR VEGETABLES...
...EVERYDAY... I WAIT IN LINE FOR HOURS... BEFORE I CAN BUY ANYTHING...
BUT... THERE'S BEEN ALMOST NO FOOD IN SHOPS FOR TWO WEEKS NOW...
...FOOD SHORTAGES WERE ONLY TO BE EXPECTED!
WITH ROADS AND RAILWAYS BLOCKED SINCE FUJI'S ERUPTION...

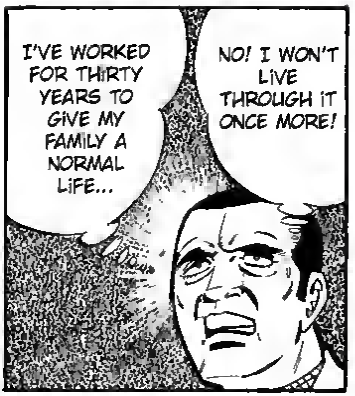
...BECAUSE THE RICH HOARD ALL THE FOOD!
IT'S NOT AS IF IT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE...
...EVERY TIME THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PRICE CONTROLS... GOODS SUDDENLY FLY OFF THE SHELVES...
...IT REMINDS ME OF THE CHAOS... AFTER THE WAR...
...IT WAS A NIGHTMARE... I NEVER WANTED TO LIVE LIKE THAT AGAIN...
WHEN ARE WE EATING, MUM?
WE'RE STARVING!
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
OK, OK... I'LL FIX SOMETHING RIGHT WAY...
...JUST GIVE ME A MINUTE.
BUT THESE... INSTANT NOODLES?
WELL DONE!
I HAD TO INSIST... THEY DIDN'T WANT TO SELL THEM TO ME BUT...
SAPPORO INSTANT NOODLES

...HE WHISPERED INTO MY EAR THAT... IF I GAVE HIM A RING OR SOMETHING... HE WOULD LET ME HAVE HIS PORTION...
...JUST WHEN I WAS ABOUT TO GIVE UP AND COME HOME... ONE OF THE SHOPKEEPERS...
THE ONE... YOU BOUGHT FOR MY BIRTHDAY...
SO... YOU EXCHANGED IT...? WHICH RING WAS IT?
I'M SORRY, DEAR...
...YOU EXCHANGED IT FOR A FEW PACKS OF NOODLES?
...THAT ONE? IT WASN'T VERY VALUABLE BUT... IT STILL COST ME 40-50,000 YEN...
...THE CAT'S EYE?
GIVE MY PORTION TO THE KIDS.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
...WHERE ARE YOU GOING... AT THIS HOUR?
BUT THESE ARE SPECIAL TIMES AND-

...IT'LL STOP SOON...
...IT'S SHAKING AGAIN!
...IS IT REALLY... GOING TO BE LIKE BACK THEN,,, ALL OVER AGAIN?
...

...I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WHEN THE WAR ENDED...
...I WAS ALWAYS HUNGRY... FOOD WAS ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT... ALL THE TIME...
...MY YOUNGER BROTHER AND SISTER WERE ALL SKIN AND BONES... KEPT CRYING THEY WERE HUNGRY...
...MY MOTHER WORN OUT FROM FATIGUE AND MALNUTRITION... WOULD MANAGE A SMILE... SHE'D SAY... "IT'S OKAY MUMMY CANNOT EAT ANYMORE, YOU CAN HAVE MY POTATO...

...SO THAT MY CHILDREN WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT...


I'VE WORKED FOR THIRTY YEARS TO GIVE MY FAMILY A NORMAL LIFE...
NO! I WON'T LIVE THROUGH IT ONCE MORE!

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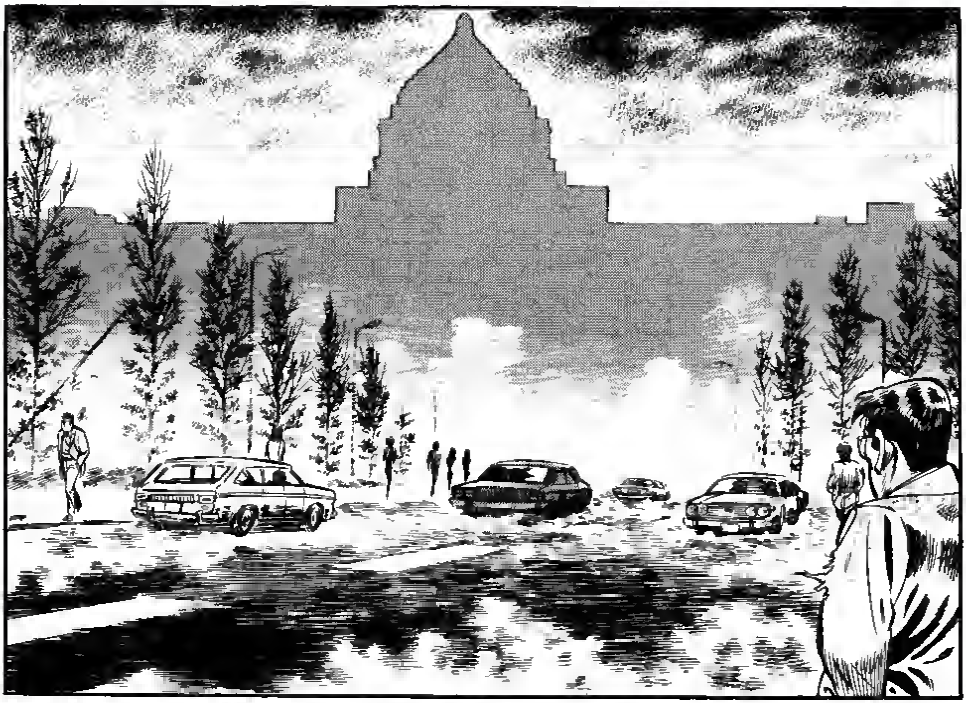
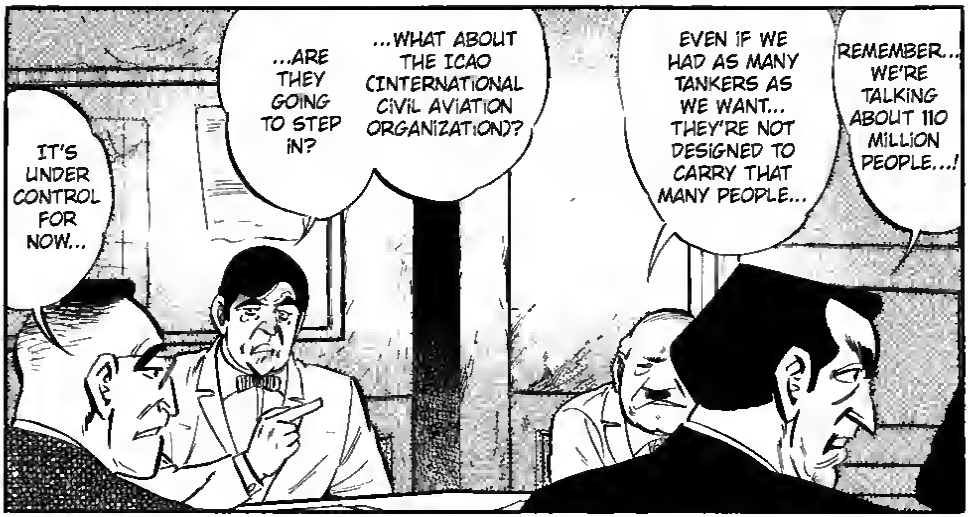
THE TRAFFIC PARALYSIS BROUGHT ON BY THE DESTRUCTION OF ROADS HAD CAUSED SERIOUS FOOD OUTAGES IN ALL MAJOR CITIES... AND THEN IN SOUTHEASTERN JAPAN, SMALL TREMORS, ON A SCALE BETWEEN LEVEL THREE AND LEVEL FOUR, BEGAN TO SHAKE THE GROUND NON-STOP ON A DAILY BASIS...

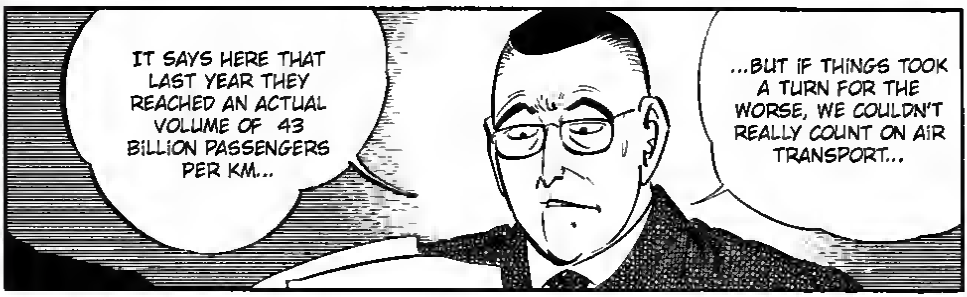


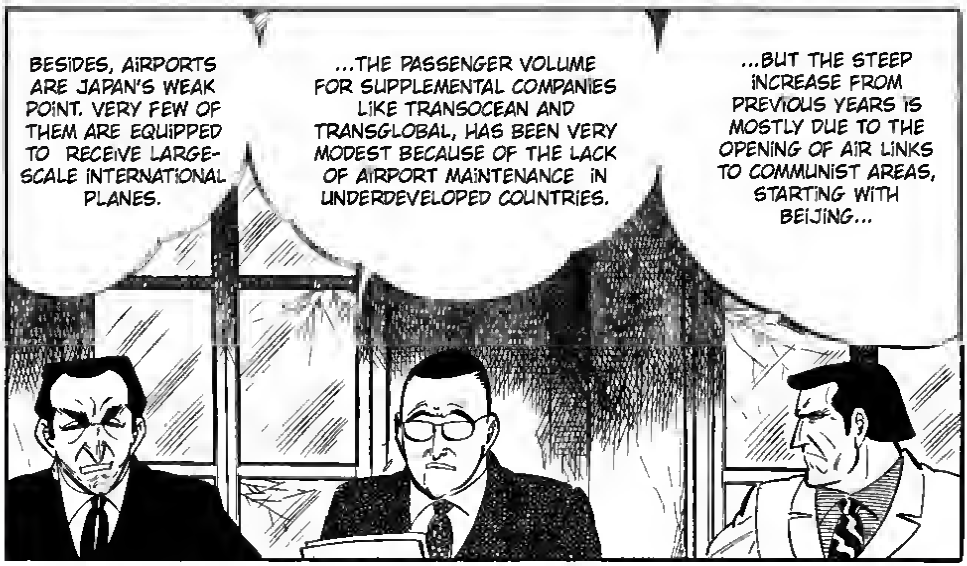
退避計画実行委員会

EVACUATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

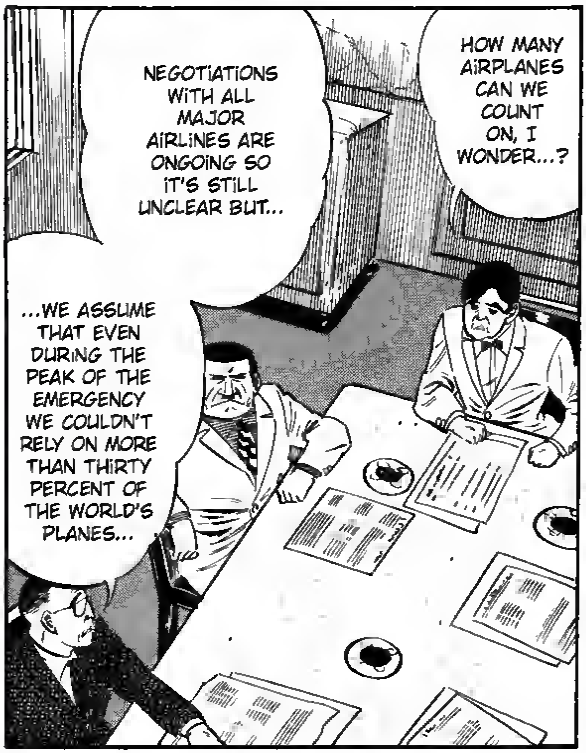
WE BELIEVE IT'S JUST A PRETEXT ON THEIR PART TO JUSTIFY RAISING CHARTER FEES BUT...
...ALLEGING THAT SEAMENS' UNIONS CONSIDER JAPANESE WATERS TOO DANGEROUS AT THE MOMENT. MOST SAILORS REFUSE TO COME UNLESS THEY RECEIVE...SPECIAL COMPENSATION.
AFTER MT. FUJI'S ERUPTION, MANY FOREIGN SHIPPING COMPANIES ARE NOW RELUCTANT TO LEASE THEIR SHIPS.
DON'T WE HAVE ANY INFLUENCE OVER THE FOREIGN SHIP-OWNERS ASSOCI-ATION?
THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL TRYING TO CONVINCE THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO SEND THE FIRST FLEET IN ADDITION TO THE SEVENTH ALREADY HERE BUT...
...THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE FOREIGN SHIP-OWNERS ASSOCIATION SEEMS TO AGREE WITH THEIR DEMANDS.
...STANDARD 26 MILLION-TONNE JAPANESE MERCHANT SHIPS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO FINISH THE JOB.
...WE HAVE TO FIND SHIPS WITH ADEQUATE CAPACITY...!
WE MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
AGAIN, YOU MEAN?
...BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH, THIS TIME WE NEED MORE MONEY TO EXERT EXTRA PRESSURE...
OF COURSE WE DO...

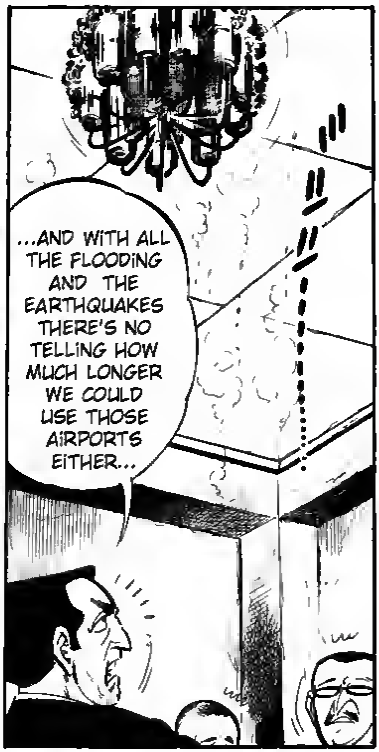

IT'S UNDER CONTROL FOR NOW...
...ARE THEY GOING TO STEP IN?
...WHAT ABOUT THE ICAO (INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION)?
EVEN IF WE HAD AS MANY TANKERS AS WE WANT... THEY'RE NOT DESIGNED TO CARRY THAT MANY PEOPLE...
REMEMBER... WE'RE TALKING ABOUT 110 MILLION PEOPLE...!


IT SAYS HERE THAT LAST YEAR THEY REACHED AN ACTUAL VOLUME OF 43 BILLION PASSENGERS PER KM...
...BUT IF THINGS TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE, WE COULDN'T REALLY COUNT ON AIR TRANSPORT...


BESIDES, AIRPORTS ARE JAPAN'S WEAK POINT. VERY FEW OF THEM ARE EQUIPPED TO RECEIVE LARGE-SCALE INTERNATIONAL PLANES.
...THE PASSENGER VOLUME FOR SUPPLEMENTAL COMPANIES LIKE TRANSOCEAN AND TRANSGLOBAL, HAS BEEN VERY MODEST BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF AIRPORT MAINTENANCE IN UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
...BUT THE STEEP INCREASE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS IS MOSTLY DUE TO THE OPENING OF AIR LINKS TO COMMUNIST AREAS, STARTING WITH BEIJING...

... BUT JUMBOS, SSTS, DC-10S, AND LOCKHEED'S OR AIRBUS'S TRANS-OCEANIC AIRLINERS COULD ONLY LAND AT NARITA, ITAMI AND ITAZUKE.
...IN CASE OF NECESSITY, WE COULD PROBABLY FALL BACK ON MIYAZAKI, KAGOSHIMA, KUMAMOTO, KOMAKI AND OKADAMA TOO...
...THE NEW KANSAI AIRPORT IS DEVASTATED... AND SO ARE NARITA, ITAMI, ITAZUKE, AND CHITOSE...


NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALL MAJOR AIRLINES ARE ONGOING SO IT'S STILL UNCLEAR BUT...
HOW MANY AIRPLANES CAN WE COUNT ON, I WONDER...?
...WE ASSUME THAT EVEN DURING THE PEAK OF THE EMERGENCY WE COULDN'T RELY ON MORE THAN THIRTY PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S PLANES...


...AND WITH ALL THE FLOODING AND THE EARTHQUAKES THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH LONGER WE COULD USE THOSE AIRPORTS EITHER...

...BUT WE'D NEED TO CONSIDER EACH AIRPORT'S LIMITATIONS.
HOWEVER, THEY'RE MEDIUM AND LONG-DISTANCE PLANES AND IN CASE OF EXTREME EMERGENCY THEY COULD BE HERE IN ABOUT A WEEK...
...I GUESS IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO CONVINCE THE WORLD TO STOP FLYING FOR THE SAKE OF JAPAN...
... THIRTY PERCENT, UH?
I HEARD AMERICA'S MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND WILL LEASE US THEIR HUGE C5-A TRANSPORT PLANES...
... I GUESS THE LIMIT WOULD BE 1000 ARRIVAL/ DEPARTURES IN 24 HOURS AT NARITA... NO MORE THAN 600 AT ITAMI...
UHMM... THEN WE REALLY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON SEA TRANSPORT.
...WE'VE ALSO REQUESTED THEM TO SEND US A HIGH NUMBER OF MEDIUM-SIZE TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WHICH CAN LAND IN ALL THE SELF-DEFENCE FORCE BASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
...THEY MAY BE TOO BIG FOR MOST AIRPORTS, SO...
WHAT ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES ...?
...WE CAN'T EXPECT MUCH IN TERMS OF NUMBER OF VESSELS.
THE INDONESIAN NAVY AND THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAVE OFFERED TO HELP WITH SHIPS BUT...

...HOW IRONIC THAT WE CANNOT RELOCATE OUR PEOPLE TO THE COUNTRIES THAT ARE CLOSEST TO US.
THE SOVIET UNION, NORTH KOREA, CHINA...
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE SHOULD'VE ESTABLISHED FRIENDLY DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES A LONG TIME AGO!
...SO WE SHOULD GET AN ANSWER IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
BUT WE WERE JUST INFORMED THAT A CONVOY OF SHIPS IS ON ITS WAY TO THE PACIFIC REGION FROM THE NORTHERN SEAS...
NO ANSWER FROM THE SOVIETS YET.
INSTEAD WE TURNED OURSELVES INTO ASIA'S BULLY... AND NOW WE PAY THE PRICE!
NOT ONCE HAVE WE ADOPTED IN EARNEST A GOOD-NEIGHBOUR POLICY TOWARDS THEM!
WE'VE ALWAYS ENGAGED IN AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR... ECONOMIC INVASIONS... TAKING SIDES IN THE COLD WAR... ESTABLISHING MILITARY BASES... EVEN EMBARKING ON MILITARY INVASIONS!
JAPAN IS PAYING THE PRICE FOR HAVING BEEN HOSTILE TO ITS NEIGHBOURS SINCE THE MEIJI ERA!

...IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
UH...?
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...i-iT'S A BIG ONE!
...M-MEETING ADJOURNED!
SHOULD WE RUN OUTSIDE?
RUN!
UAAAH!
UNDER THE TABLE!

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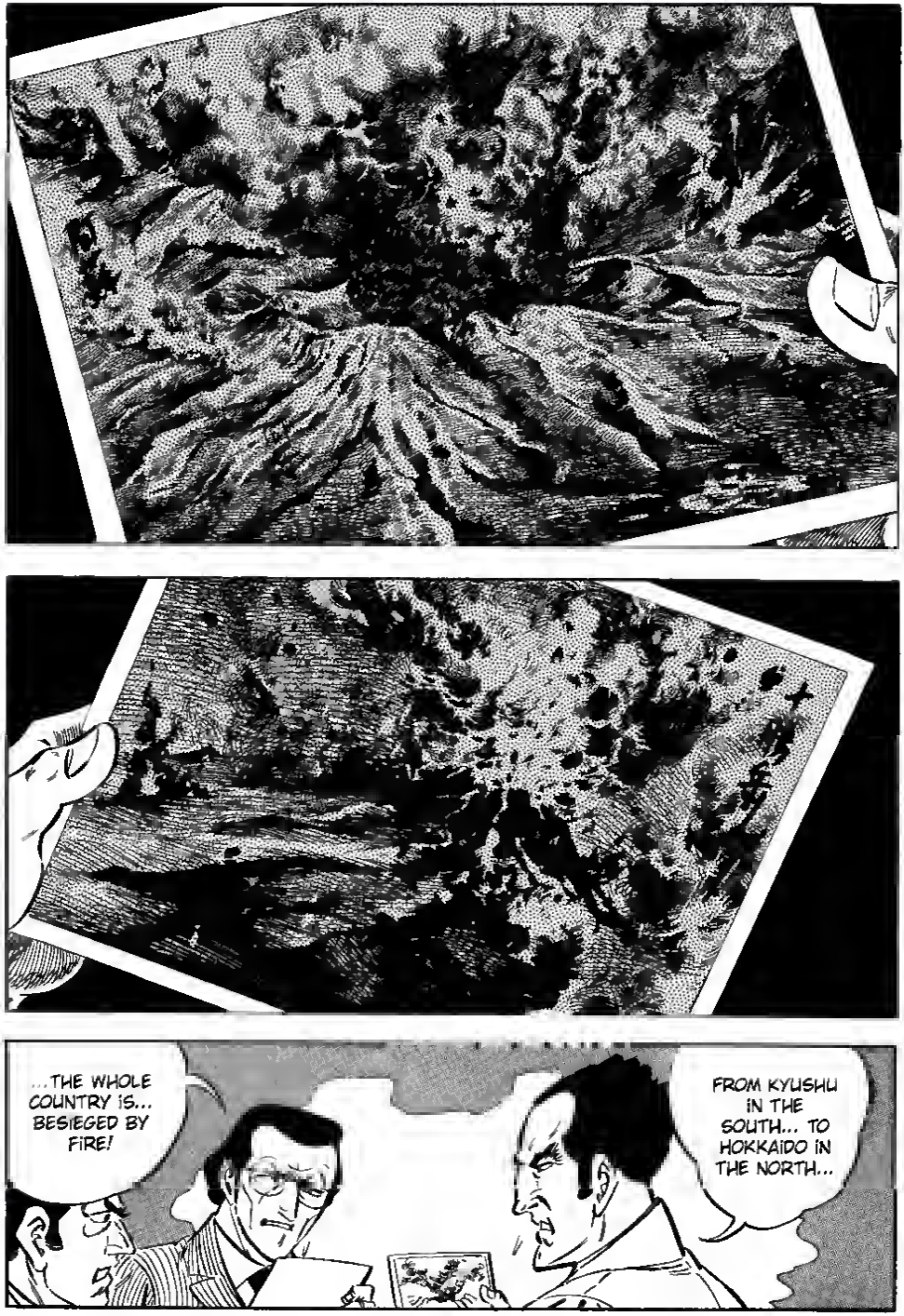
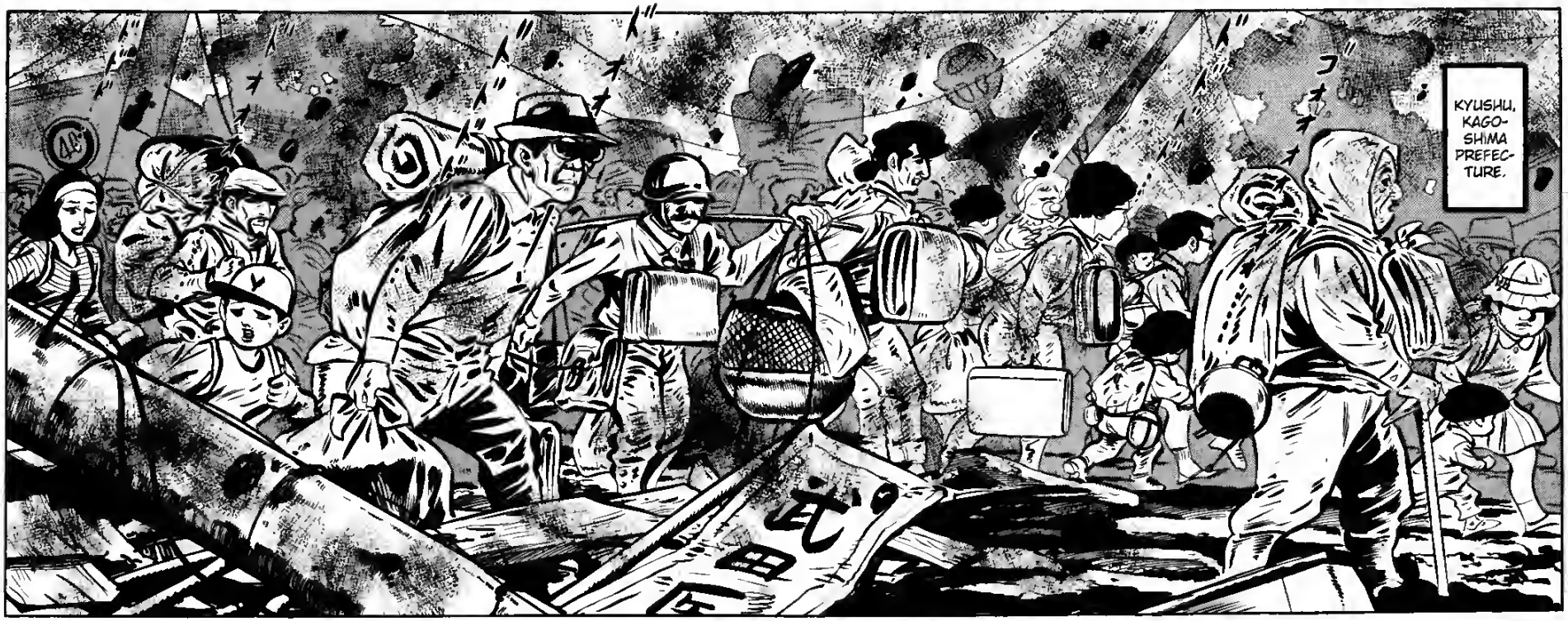
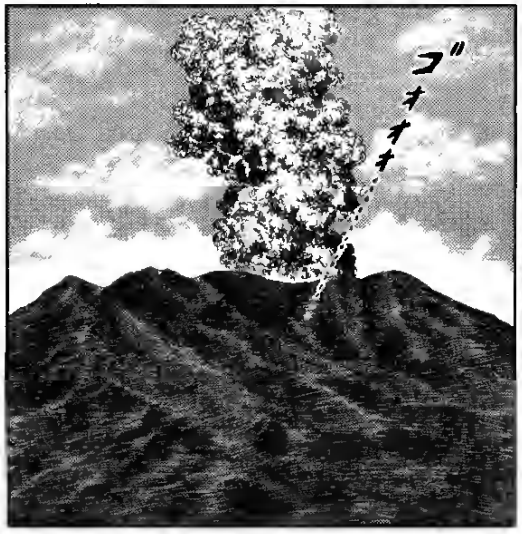
PLAN D HEAD-QUAR-TERS.
(NAKATA'S APARTMENT)
LEVEL FOUR... WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
AT LAST... IT STOPPED...
PHEW...
...THEY SENT US PICTURES.
IT SAYS HERE THAT... MT. ASO AND TOKACHI PEAK ERUPTED ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY FOUR HOURS AGO...

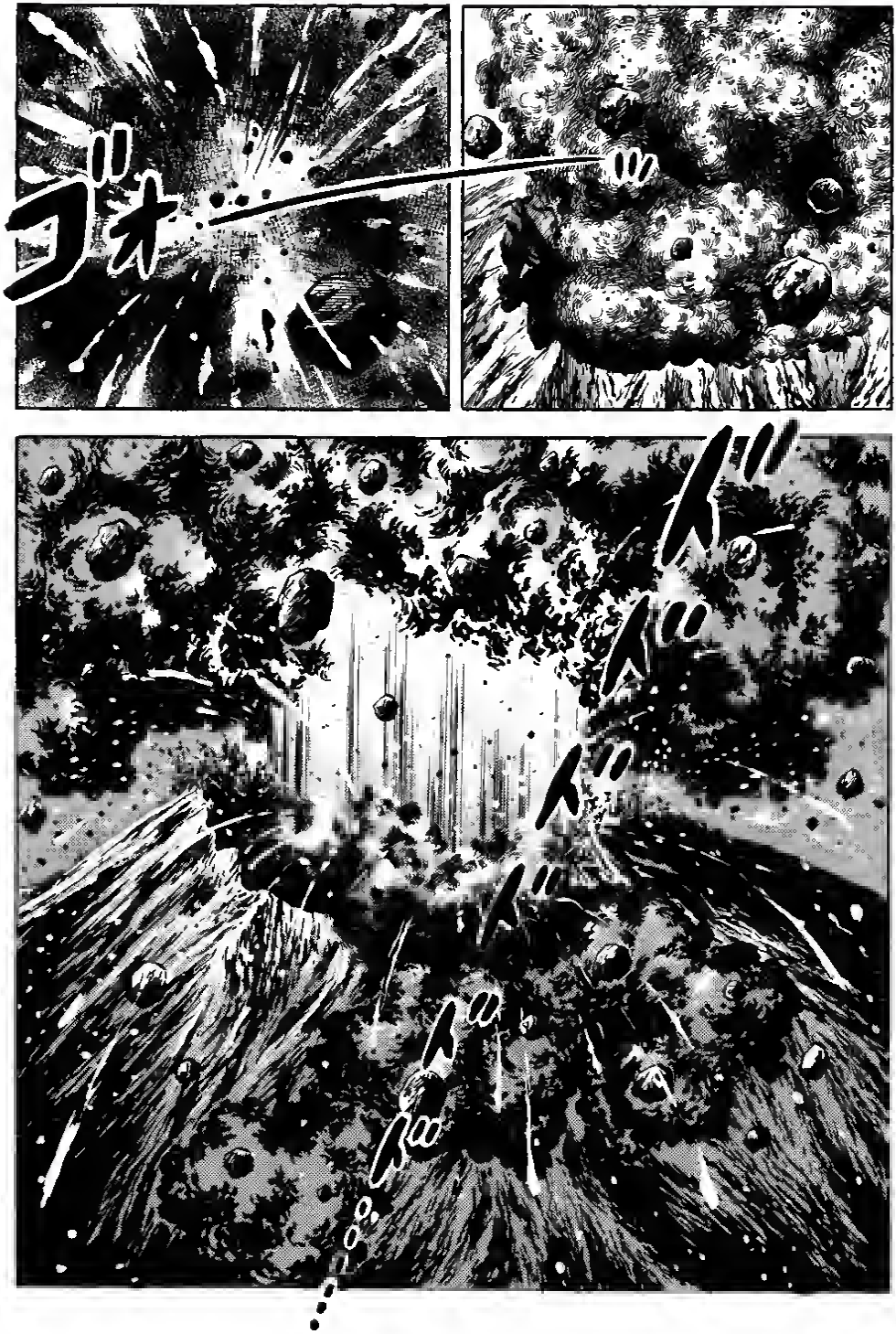

...THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS... BESIEGED BY FIRE!
FROM KYUSHU IN THE SOUTH... TO HOKKAIDO IN THE NORTH...

...I UNDER-STAND...
HELLO? PLAN D'S NAKATA SPEAKING...
PRRR...
... A FEW MINUTES AGO....
...A MAGNITUDE SEVEN-QUAKE HIT THE NORTHERN PART OF KYUSHU AND THE WESTERN PART OF CHUGOKU REGION...
IT WAS FROM D-2'S CHUBU REGION TEAM.
WHAT DID THEY SAY?
THE RAIL AND TRAFFIC TUNNELS UNDER THE KANMON STRAITS ARE BLOCKED... THE KANMON BRIDGE WAS TWISTED SO BADLY IT'S NOW CLOSED TO HEAVY VEHICLES...
...CAUSING A REVERSE FAULT IN THE OCEAN FLOOR UNDER THE KANMON STRAITS... SIXTY KM IN LENGTH FROM EAST-NORTHEAST TO WEST-SOUTHWEST, TWO METRES SIDEWAYS AND 70 CM DEEP..
...GOING OVER EACH ONE OF THEM... WON'T CHANGE THE FINAL RESULT...
...THE REPORTS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET WORSE...
...I'VE HEARD ENOUGH.


KYUSHU, KAGO-SHIMA PREFEC-TURE.



AFTER ASO, KIRISHIMA AND SAKURAJIMA ARE EXPECTED TO BLOW UP NEXT!
HURRY UP, PLEASE!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WAHHH!
GHAAA!
H-HELP!
UNHHH!
NOOOO!
YAWWW-HAHHHH!
AURGHH!

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WAAHHHH!
ガハアアオオ
YAHAHHH!

YAAHHH!
HELP!
...SOME-ONE HELP US!
AHHHHH!
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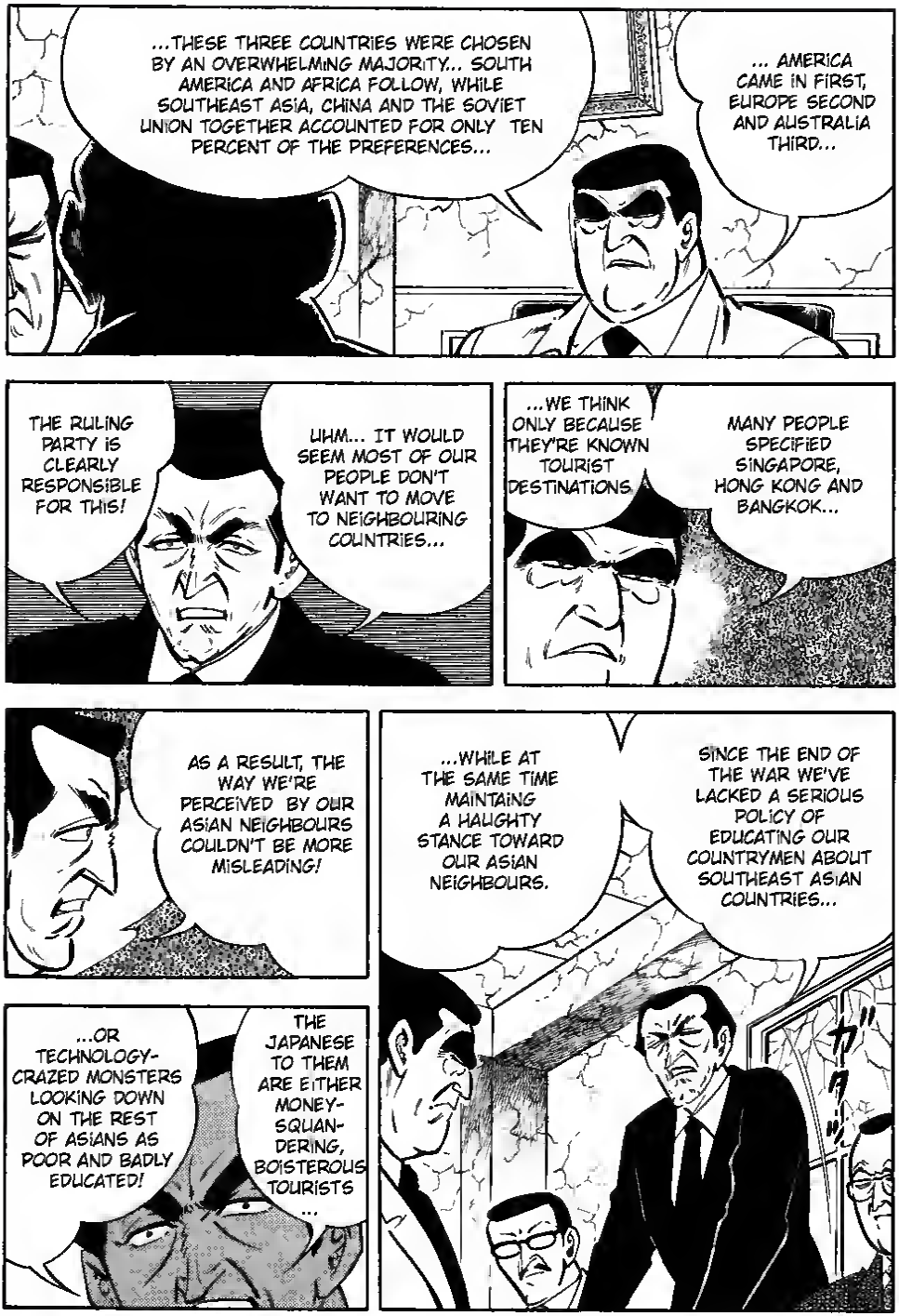
THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ON DESIRED RELOCATION DESTINATION CARRIED OUT BY THE INSTITUTE OF IMMIGRATION POLICIES HAVE JUST COME IN...
EVACUATION PLANNING COMMITTEE.


...THESE THREE COUNTRIES WERE CHOSEN BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY.. SOUTH AMERICA AND AFRICA FOLLOW, WHILE SOUTHEAST ASIA, CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION TOGETHER ACCOUNTED FOR ONLY TEN PERCENT OF THE PREFERENCES...
... AMERICA CAME IN FIRST, EUROPE SECOND AND AUSTRALIA THIRD...
THE RULING PARTY IS CLEARLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!
UHM... IT WOULD SEEM MOST OF OUR PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO MOVE TO NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES...
...WE THINK ONLY BECAUSE THEY'RE KNOWN TOURIST DESTINATIONS.
MANY PEOPLE SPECIFIED SINGAPORE, HONG KONG AND BANGKOK...
AS A RESULT, THE WAY WE'RE PERCEIVED BY OUR ASIAN NEIGHBOURS COULDN'T BE MORE MISLEADING!
...WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAING A HAUGHTY STANCE TOWARD OUR ASIAN NEIGHBOURS.
SINCE THE END OF THE WAR WE'VE LACKED A SERIOUS POLICY OF EDUCATING OUR COUNTRYMEN ABOUT SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES...
...OR TECHNOLOGY-CRAZED MONSTERS LOOKING DOWN ON THE REST OF ASIANS AS POOR AND BADLY EDUCATED!
THE JAPANESE TO THEM ARE EITHER MONEY-SQUANDERING, BOISTEROUS TOURISTS ...
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...EVER SINCE THE MEIJI ERA.
I AGREE THAT JAPAN MAY HAVE TRIED TOO HARD TO COSY UP TO AMERICA AND EUROPE...
...THERE IS NO SENSE IN BRINGING THIS UP NOW.
IF OUR PEOPLE WERE TO MOVE EN MASSE TO THOSE COUNTRIES, HOW DO YOU THINK THEY'D BE RECEIVED?
...AND IN A SENSE WE' VE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL, SOCIALLY, MILITARILY AND ECONOMI-CALLY.
JAPAN'S AMBITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO JOIN THE RANKS OF "MODERN COUNTRIES," OF THE WESTERN "MAJOR POWERS"...
...BUT SOON... OUR SAFE HAVEN WILL BE GONE...
...IN CASE OF TROUBLE, WE COULD JUST RETREAT TO OUR FOUR ISLANDS AND INTERACT AT A DISTANCE WITH EUROPE AND THE US ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD!
BUT THE PRICE OF THIS SUCCESS WAS ISOLATION FROM OUR ASIAN NEIGHBORS...A PRICE JAPAN WAS WILLING TO PAY THINKING THAT...
DIRECTOR!
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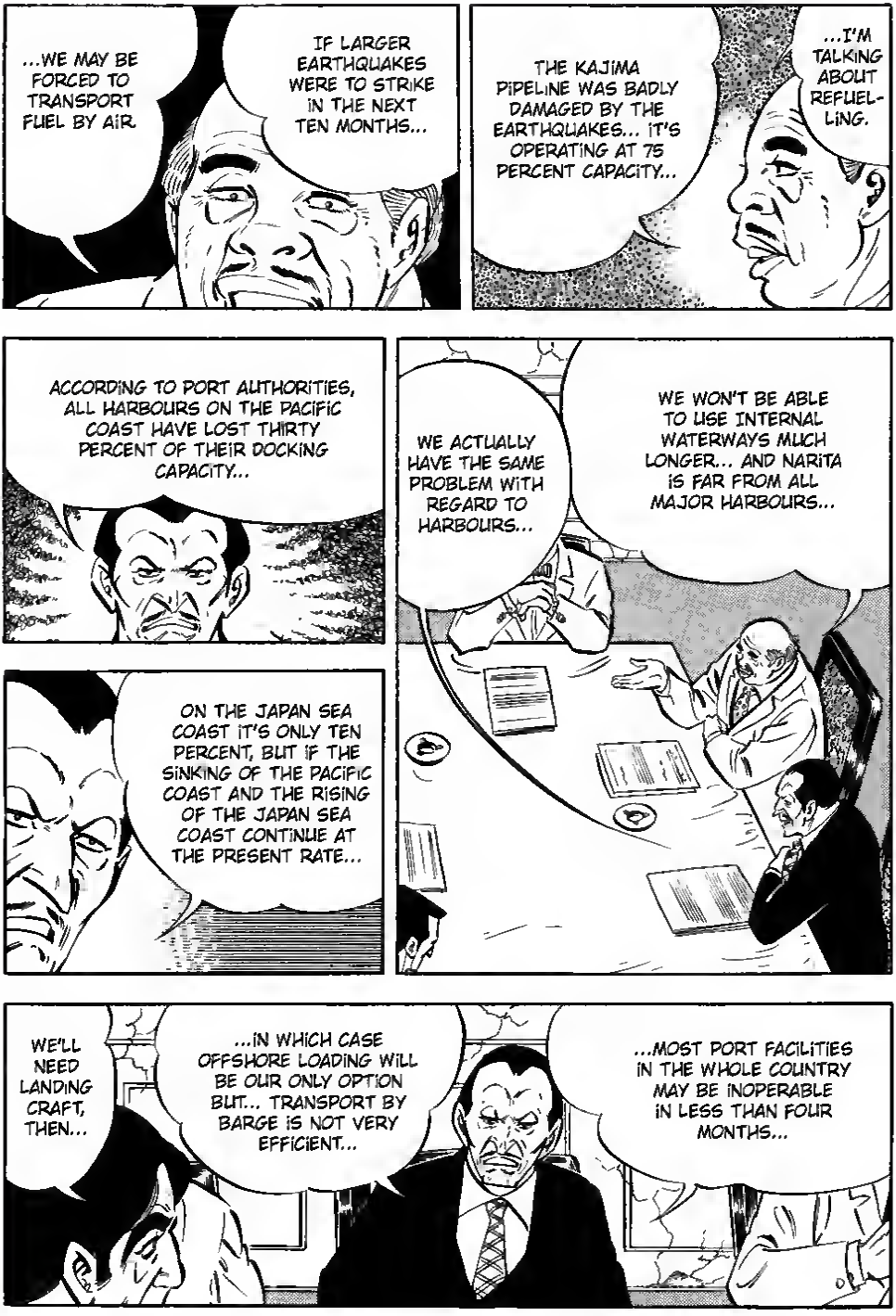
BUT FOR NOW... WE MUST PERFORM THE MIRACLE OF EVACUATING 110 MILLION PEOPLE!
...AND THIS IS A PROBLEM WE'LL HAVE TO CONFRONT IN THE FUTURE.

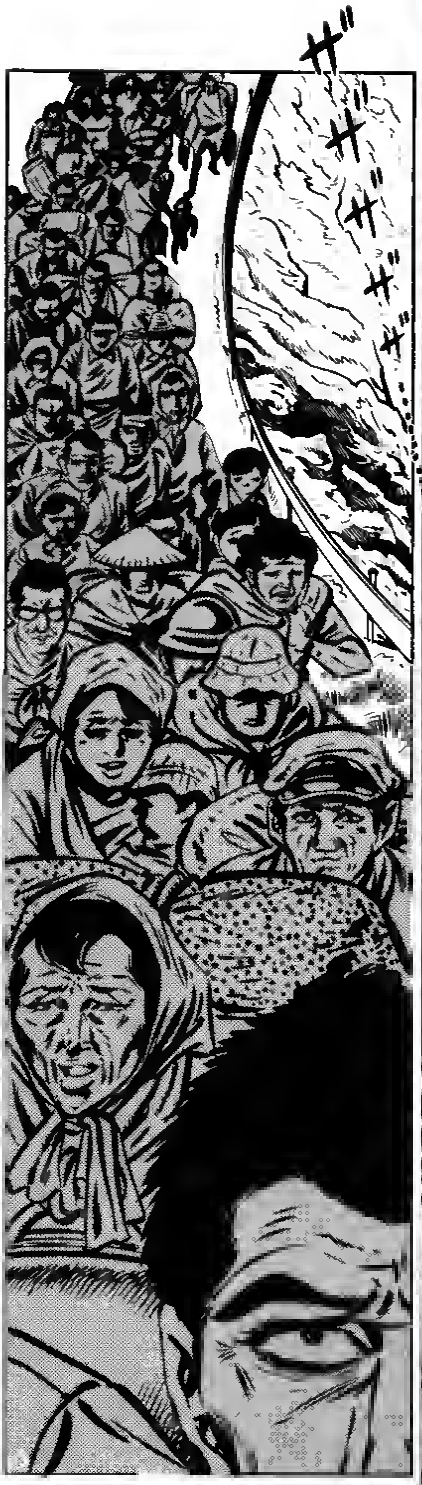
...WHAT ABOUT CASUALTIES?
...JUST AFTER ASO...?
...WE'VE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT OF SIMULTANEOUS ERUPTIONS IN KIRISHIMA AND SAKURAJIMA.
...EXCUSE THE INTERRUPTION!
I SEE...
...WE UNDERSTAND THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE DEAD AND MISSING.
WE DON'T HAVE DEFINITE FIGURES YET BUT...
...OR WANTING TO SEND TO LABOUR CAMPS ANYONE WHO'LL MOVE THERE.
...FROM CREATING PANIC BY SPREADING WILD RUMOURS ABOUT CHINA AND RUSSIA PREPARING TO INVADE US...
I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH PREVENTING FEAR-MONGERS FROM THE FAR-RIGHT...
...OF RELOCATING 110 MILLION PEOPLE.
AND NOW BACK TO OUR PROBLEM...

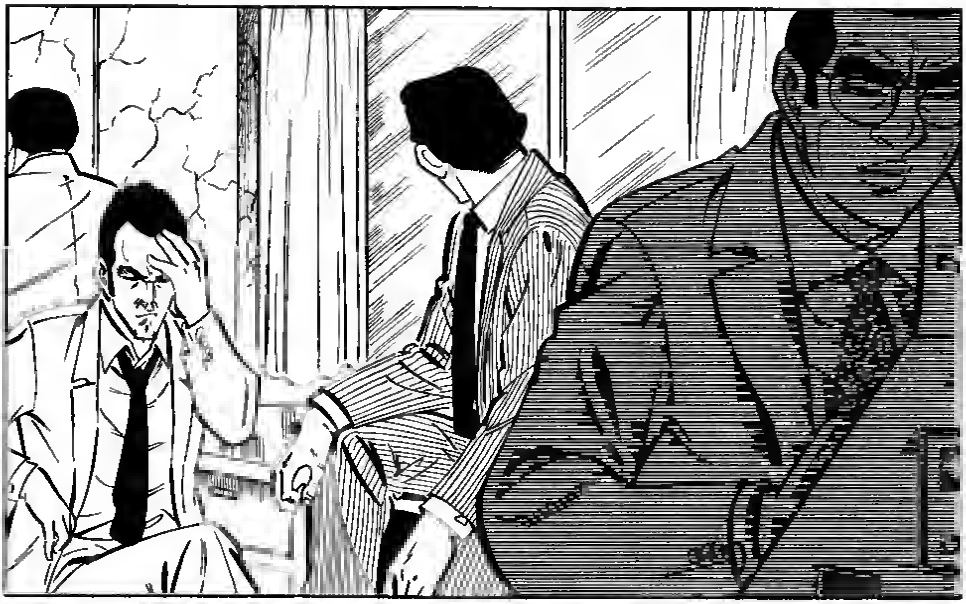
I AGREE THIS IS BECOMING A SERIOUS PROBLEM...
HISTORICALLY, THE RULING PARTY, IN ITS EFFORT TO CONFORM TO AMERICA'S ANTICOMMUNIST STANCE, HAS ENDED UP BOOSTING THESE ULTRANATIONALIST GROUPS.
TURNING A BLIND EYE JUST WON'T DO...
LOOK AT THE PAST....VIOLENCE IS WHERE WE'VE ALWAYS DRAWN THE LINE.
BUT THE PRESENT EMERGENCY DOESN'T JUSTIFY A NEW PEACE PRESERVATION ACT... WE CAN'T GO BACK TO MAKING RUMOUR MONGERING A CRIME...
...AND THAT SOONER OR LATER SOMETHING MUST BE DONE.
...IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT JAPAN IS STILL FAR FROM THE STANDARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.
MOST OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE ALWAYS TOLERATED A CERTAIN LEVEL OF SLANDER AS PART OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH...
...IT'S THE SAME WITH ANTI-AMERICAN PROTESTERS, IT WOULD REQUIRE CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION.

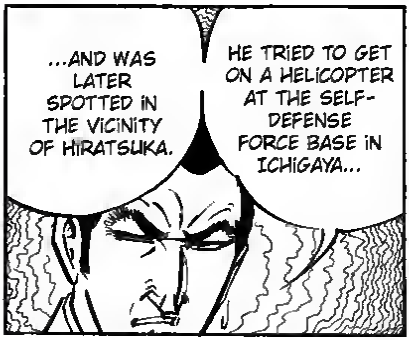
WE HAVE TO MAKE EXTREMELY CLEAR THAT IT'S A LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION!
THIS IS NOT A SIGHT-SEEING TRIP...
...WON'T THE FORCED ASSIGNMENT OF DESTINATIONS BY THE COMMITTEE CREATE AN UPROAR?
GIVEN SUCH STRONG OPINIONS ABOUT RELOCATION DESTINATIONS...
...EVEN IN IDEAL CIRCUMSTANCES WE THINK IT'D BE LESS THAN 50 BILLION PASSENGERS PER KM...
...AS FOR TRANSPORTING PEOPLE OUT OF JAPAN BY AIR...
CAN WE NOW CONTINUE WITH THE REPORTS?
WE ALREADY DISCUSSED OSAKA AIRPORT... AS FOR NARITA, THERE'S ANOTHER CAUSE FOR HEADACHES...
JAPAN IS AN ISOLATED ISLAND NATION, THE AVERAGE DISTANCE TRAVELLED PER PASSENGER IS HIGH... ABOUT FOUR TIMES THE WORLD AVERAGE... OVER 4000 KM... WE'RE TALKING THEORY, OF COURSE, IN REALITY IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH LONGER WE CAN USE ALL THE AIRPORTS...
IN OTHER WORDS TEN MILLION PEOPLE... OVER 5000KM... IN THE CASE OF TWENTY MILLION PEOPLE, 2500 KM...

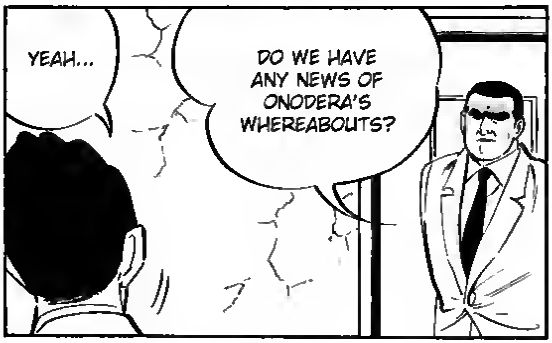

...WE MAY BE FORCED TO TRANSPORT FUEL BY AIR.
IF LARGER EARTHQUAKES WERE TO STRIKE IN THE NEXT TEN MONTHS...
THE KAJIMA PIPELINE WAS BADLY DAMAGED BY THE EARTHQUAKES... IT'S OPERATING AT 75 PERCENT CAPACITY...
...I'M TALKING ABOUT REFUEL-LING.
ACCORDING TO PORT AUTHORITIES, ALL HARBOURS ON THE PACIFIC COAST HAVE LOST THIRTY PERCENT OF THEIR DOCKING CAPACITY...
WE ACTUALLY HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO HARBOURS...
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE INTERNAL WATERWAYS MUCH LONGER... AND NARITA IS FAR FROM ALL MAJOR HARBOURS...
ON THE JAPAN SEA COAST IT'S ONLY TEN PERCENT, BUT IF THE SINKING OF THE PACIFIC COAST AND THE RISING OF THE JAPAN SEA COAST CONTINUE AT THE PRESENT RATE...
WE'LL NEED LANDING CRAFT, THEN...
...IN WHICH CASE OFFSHORE LOADING WILL BE OUR ONLY OPTION BUT... TRANSPORT BY BARGE IS NOT VERY EFFICIENT...
...MOST PORT FACILITIES IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY MAY BE INOPERABLE IN LESS THAN FOUR MONTHS...

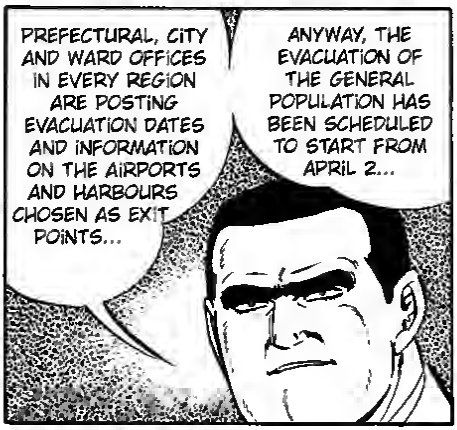
THEY WERE USED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR TO TRANSPORT MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM YOKOHAMA TO SAIGON...
...FOR THEIR LSTS... 2500-TONNE MONSTERS... THEY CAN EVEN CARRY TANKS...
...WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ASK THE MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCES AND THE US NAVY'S MSTS (MILITARY SEA TRANSPORTATION SERVICE)...
AT THE END OF THE WAR I CAME HOME FROM THE SOUTH ON ONE OF THEM... IT ROCKED VIOLENTLY, CONDITIONS ABOARD THE SHIP WERE AWFUL AND BECAUSE OF THE TROPICAL HEAT AND MALNUTRITION THE WOUNDED AND THE SICK WERE DYING LIKE FLIES...
THAT'S RIGHT.
...IT'S A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BALLGAME.
110 MILLION PEOPLE IN TEN MONTHS...
...ALMOST TEN YEARS.
YES, BUT OVER A VERY LONG TIME...
OVER TEN MILLION PEOPLE, INCLUDING MILITARY PERSONNEL WERE EVACUATED AT THAT TIME, AM I RIGHT?

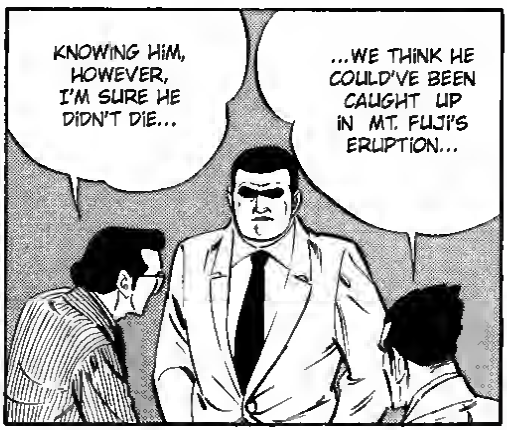




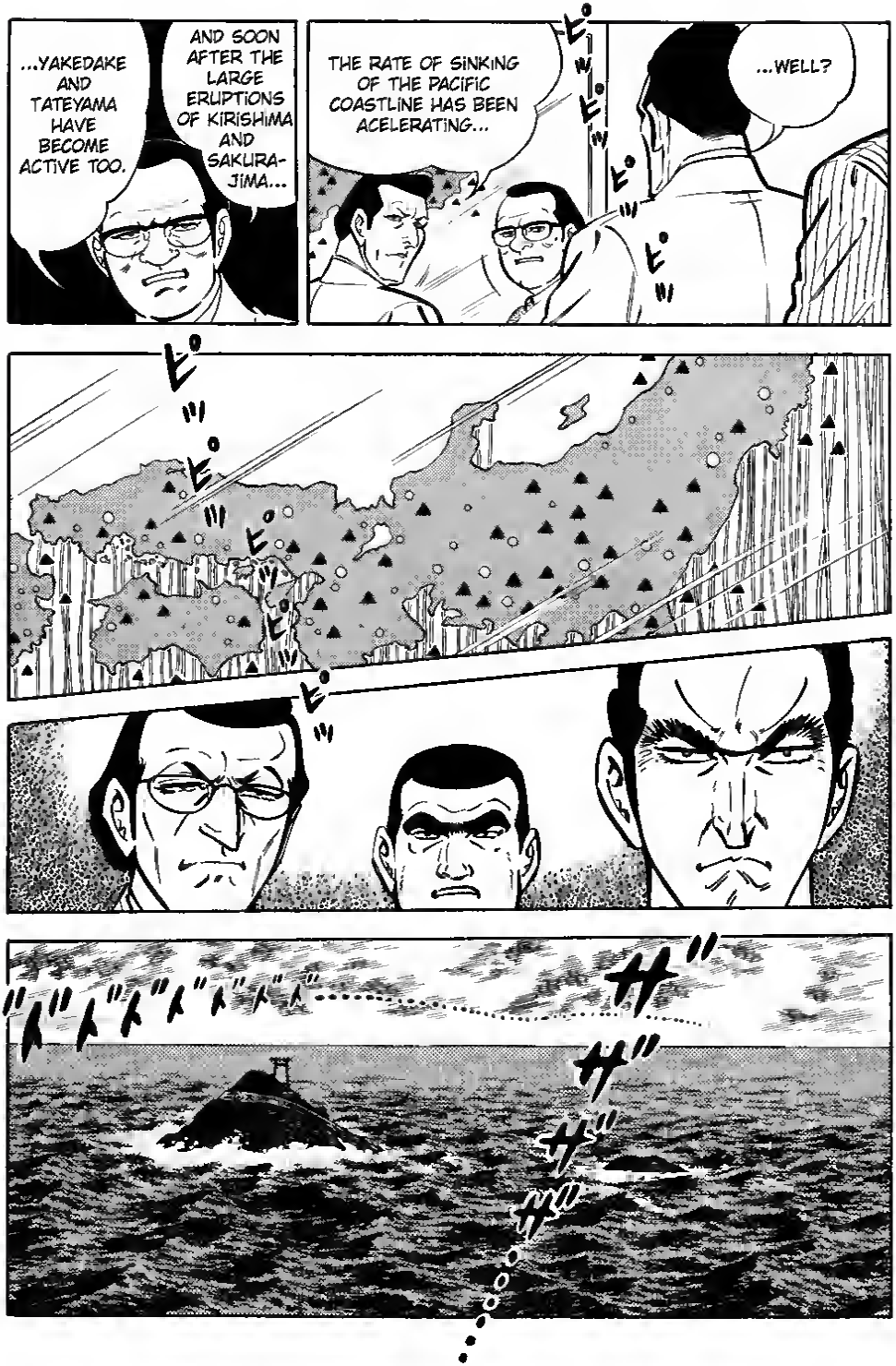

...AND WAS LATER SPOTTED IN THE VICINITY OF HIRATSUKA.
HE TRIED TO GET ON A HELICOPTER AT THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE BASE IN ICHIGAYA...


YEAH...
DO WE HAVE ANY NEWS OF ONODERA'S WHEREABOUTS?


PREFECTURAL, CITY AND WARD OFFICES IN EVERY REGION ARE POSTING EVACUATION DATES AND INFORMATION ON THE AIRPORTS AND HARBOURS CHOSEN AS EXIT POINTS...
ANYWAY, THE EVACUATION OF THE GENERAL POPULATION HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO START FROM APRIL 2...


KNOWING HIM, HOWEVER, I'M SURE HE DIDN'T DIE...
...WE THINK HE COULD'VE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN MT. FUJI'S ERUPTION...

...HE'D TALKED ABOUT GOING... ON A HONEY MOON...
I SEE... EVEN IF ONODERA IS STILL ALIVE, HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY ON HIS OWN.
FOR THIS REASON, ALL AIRLINES HAVE STOPPED SELLING TICKETS TO PRIVATE TRAVELLERS AND PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN TO PEOPLE WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS.
...JUDGING FROM APPEARANCES, THEY ALL SEEM TO BE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT DIRECTIONS CALMLY.
DEEP INSIDE, I COULDN'T TELL YOU BUT...
ARE THERE SIGNS OF PANIC AMONG THE POPULATION?


...YAKEDAKE AND TATEYAMA HAVE BECOME ACTIVE TOO.
AND SOON AFTER THE LARGE ERUPTIONS OF KIRISHIMA AND SAKURA-JIMA...
THE RATE OF SINKING OF THE PACIFIC COASTLINE HAS BEEN ACELERATING...
...WELL?
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Japan sinks (3)
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Translator: Ari Werry
Letterer: Elisa Tung
Editor: Rod Sampson